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President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) (Republic of Korea)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (continued)

1. **Ms. Niyazalieva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that the implementation of the sustainable development agenda would require greater cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, including through further enhancement of the “Delivering as one” initiative, taking into account issues such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, financing for development and the needs of landlocked countries like Kyrgyzstan. The high-level political forum on sustainable development would play a key role in the follow-up and review process and in making timely recommendations for addressing threats or problems. National reviews, which must be voluntary and involve not only government institutions, but also the scientific and business communities and civil society, were the most important components of the review mechanism.

2. Kyrgyzstan would soon be presenting its national report on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), together with its vision for the transition to the new, broader sustainable development agenda. The national committee established in 2009 to coordinate the pursuit of the MDGs would be strengthened and the role of parliament, as the body responsible for passing laws on development, would also be enhanced. In the pursuit of the MDGs, objective evaluation processes and quality statistical data had proven to be essential; access to modern technology was key to improvement in that regard.

3. **Ms. Navarro** (Panama) said that a strong high-level political forum would be instrumental in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development and implementing the post-2015 agenda. Panama was committed to strengthening the science-policy interface and building the capacity of developing countries in that regard, including their monitoring and assessment capacities.

4. Given the country’s privileged geographical location and existing infrastructure, the Government proposed establishing two regional hubs in Panama City to advance the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda: one, a regional hub to bring

together and promote best practices and synergies between all the United Nations agencies operating in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the other, a logistics hub to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance across the region.

5. The coming years would be critical for the future of the planet. Only through international cooperation and support would the post-2015 sustainable development goals be achieved. Panama, acting with flexibility and in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, was fully engaged in that process.

6. **Ms. Schwarzelühr-Sutter** (Germany) said that the high-level political forum must be given the tools to help countries in the pursuit of the sustainable development goals. The follow-up and review architecture must be flexible enough for States and regions to be able to adapt it to their own situations, and the review exercise should not only inform the Council of the success achieved at all levels, but also highlight best practices, lessons learned and challenges faced.

7. All States should be encouraged to participate in the global-level review at least twice by 2030, to maximize the benefits of the exercise. At the national level, States should build on existing reporting and planning instruments and involve civil society, the private sector, trade unions and the scientific community in the review process. It should be possible for the outcomes of national reviews, like the reports of United Nations agencies and civil society on the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, to be submitted directly to the forum. Regions, for their part, should be able to choose the most suitable platform for their peer review.

8. The themes chosen for the review would help focus attention and ensure the involvement of a broad spectrum of actors, and the outcomes of the review should include concrete recommendations on the topics discussed and specific guidance for States. The Global Sustainable Development Reports should also have a thematic focus and make clear recommendations, particularly on new and emerging issues, for the high-level political forum to bring to the attention of Heads of State and Government. Those reports would enable the forum to take stock of progress made towards each sustainable development goal. All sectors of society would need to be involved in the exercise to ensure that a full picture was obtained.

9. **Mr. Nakane** (Japan) said that his Government was pleased that disaster risk reduction would be an important pillar of the new development agenda. The Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that had taken place in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015 had produced valuable input for the post-2015 framework that now required follow-up. During the seventieth session of the General Assembly, his delegation would be proposing that 5 November should be declared “World Tsunami Day”, to raise awareness of the threat that tsunamis posed and the measures that could be taken to mitigate their impact.

10. The new agenda also aimed to address other new challenges in the areas of infrastructure, inclusive economic growth, the rule of law and transparency, in addition to the unmet targets of the MDGs regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women, health care and quality education for all. Japan supported a global partnership aimed at overcoming the traditional North-South divide and would contribute positively to the discussions aimed at solving global issues within the framework of the United Nations and the new development agenda.

11. **Mr. Saadat** (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that while progress towards the achieving the MDGs had been remarkable, it had also been uneven, and that poverty eradication should remain the central objective of the post-2015 agenda. Beyond addressing the symptoms of underdevelopment, States should commit to a new phase of international cooperation: a genuine global partnership based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To fulfil the unmet commitments associated with the MDGs and implement the new sustainable development agenda, there must be an undertaking to ensure the availability and adequacy of the means of implementation, and equitable and non-discriminatory access for developing countries to those means. Only then would “leaving no one behind” become a possibility.

12. The high-level political forum should display leadership and provide guidance on the implementation of the development agenda. National specificities must be taken into account and Member States should be afforded the policy space to adjust the sustainable development goals to their national strategies and plans. Assessments of the global partnership and of the availability and adequacy of means of implementation should form an integral part of the review process. Links with complementary processes, such as the

International Conference on Financing for Development, should also be established.

13. Finally, the high-level political forum should simplify and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its proceedings, including by streamlining its panel discussions.

14. **Mr. Pipa** (United States of America) said that a successful transition to the new development agenda would require transparent planning by the high-level political forum and significant consultation with Member States. The forum should review the organization of its sessions and consider arranging 30-minute presentations rather than panel discussions that provided only limited speaking time. The expertise of the speakers was, of course, key.

15. The forum should focus on its core mandates, which included identifying best practices, new trends and challenges in sustainable development, and promoting partnerships. The United States supported the idea of the forum serving as a platform for a two-way conversation with the scientific community and called for civil society to play a strong role in the forum.

16. The forum’s success as the apex of the follow-up and review framework for the post-2015 development agenda would rest on several pillars. Ensuring that the Council’s functional commissions and subsidiary bodies conducted specialized follow-up and review in key areas and reported outcomes in a coherent and coordinated manner would be essential. Countries required reporting guidelines that both minimized the administrative burden and accommodated different realities. National reports must feed into regional analyses that highlighted common challenges, best practices and the most pressing issues. A concise, digestible, technical Global Sustainable Development Report should be produced annually to drive the forum’s discussions and provide policymakers with helpful information.

17. Another pillar of success would be the establishment of transparent and open data platforms and evaluation programmes to generate input for evidence-based decision-making. The forum might wish to consider how and when to make decisions related to those pillars in order to secure the inputs required for it to succeed.

18. Lastly, the themes chosen for the annual reviews must be known well in advance to make proper analysis possible. Broad annual themes used as lenses for examining the entire development agenda were preferable, since themes focused on specific goals would undermine the very interlinkages that were one of the strengths of the agenda. Much remained to be done to ensure the forum's success, but the substantive debates so far were encouraging, and the United States looked forward to working with partners to turn that vision into reality.

19. **Mr. Perera** (Observer for Sri Lanka) said that the MDGs had undoubtedly played a significant role in improving the situation of millions of people. Sri Lanka had made notable progress in many areas and was mostly on track to meet all the targets associated with the Goals. There was still unfinished business, however, and efforts to achieve the Goals must be analysed with a view to avoiding the mistakes of the past. Poverty eradication should continue to be the main focus of the development agenda, and financing, technology transfers and capacity-building, which had been seriously lacking in the effort to achieve the MDGs, would play a pivotal role in that regard. Developed nations must also honour their official development assistance (ODA) commitments to the developing world, and middle-income countries that no longer qualified for ODA must be granted continued access to concessional development financing.

20. An enabling environment was crucial for the transition to the sustainable development goals. His Government was confident in its ability to manage the transition with the policy measures it was introducing. It recognized the strong link between good governance and sustainable development, and was introducing constitutional changes to promote justice and the rule of law and foster a climate conducive to sustainable development in a post-conflict context.

21. The high-level political forum was the best platform for reviewing progress and fostering coherence in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and must adopt an integrated approach in the transition to the new development goals. Transparency, inclusiveness, efficiency and a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions and national ownership of that process would be pivotal.

22. **Mr. Dabbashi** (Observer for Libya) said that, as the international community prepared to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, the commitments set forth in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", must be translated into practical measures through intergovernmental processes and the recognition of regional and subregional institutions, so as to avoid duplication of effort. The acknowledgement of common but differentiated responsibilities and of the importance of technology would be of vital importance in that process.

23. International mechanisms for technology transfer, financing and training in support of sustainable development were needed. He hoped that the third International Conference on Financing for Development would identify comprehensive solutions to financing challenges. Issues such as the mobilization of resources, improved financial and technical cooperation, foreign debt rescheduling, government oversight of development and the balance between all three dimensions of development needed to be addressed.

24. Capital flight from developing to developed countries hampered progress. Several countries acted as safe havens for capital flight by allowing money-laundering, shell companies and banking secrecy. All States should work together to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption and find ways to facilitate and expedite the return of stolen assets, which would be a significant source of financing for reconstruction and development.

25. Development without security and stability was impossible. Libya hoped that the United Nations would support its efforts to overcome its problems in that regard and help it build its institutions so that it could relaunch its economic programme and prepare for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. Delays in capital transfers from developed to developing countries hampered progress. Money-laundering, banking secrecy and the slow return of assets stolen from developing countries denied them access to funds that were essential for their reconstruction and development.

26. **Mr. Maope** (Observer for Lesotho) said that the institutional structure of sustainable development had been significantly strengthened through the establishment of the high-level political forum on

sustainable development. The forum's oversight of the implementation of the post-2015 agenda would be essential for maintaining the necessary political commitment at all levels. That agenda required a synergic and coherent approach that integrated the three dimensions of sustainable development within a single framework and recognized the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The forum should build on the lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development to devise adequate strategies for that integration. A strong interface between science and policy would be important for ensuring relevant policy guidance.

27. For the Global Sustainable Development Report to serve as an effective tool for assessment and for agenda-setting, greater coordination among United Nations bodies would be required to ensure that they carried out their planning, monitoring and evaluation exercise using, where possible, a common reporting mechanism and a common set of indicators. Equity and inequality issues must be mainstreamed into the forum's activities, particularly in terms of the representation and participation of developing countries, in order to strengthen its legitimacy. Meaningful engagement on matters such as development finance, technology transfers and capacity-building was crucial.

28. Lesotho joined the global call for national ownership of effective integration, implementation and review processes in the pursuit of a sustainable future. The national review was the most significant mechanism for establishing linkages between local and global efforts to implement the post-2015 development agenda. The resource requirements and data challenges of the review process required particular consideration. Ultimately, the future of sustainable development, which was intrinsically linked with poverty eradication, rested on the convergence of international processes on the sustainable development goals, development financing and technology facilitation and an ambitious global agreement on climate change.

29. **Mr. Abdrakmanov** (Kazakhstan) said that the international community had reached agreement on the 17 sustainable development goals, with poverty eradication and the protection of the planet identified as the overarching priorities. The high-level political forum on sustainable development would serve as a focal platform for follow-up and review. The forum must benefit from and build on the work of the Council

and that of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the World Bank, and other development banks and development-focused international organizations.

30. Coordination with regional organizations and their respective economic commissions would bring results in all regions with regard to the established goals. Review processes at the regional level, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, could serve as a bridge for global commitments and national implementation. Furthermore, varying conditions between countries demanded that suitable indicators should be developed; those indicators and other criteria were best when they were realistic, understandable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow for possible adjustments, and were accompanied by pragmatic timelines and priorities, without overburdening State institutions. It was important to assess patterns and trends that affected implementation of the sustainable development agenda in all sectors in a balanced fashion. Research conducted by the United Nations was lacking when it only included tangible indicators such as mortality and school enrolment rates.

31. Governments, businesses and international organizations must be accountable to the people for tracking progress in and shaping policy for the implementation of the sustainable agenda. Feedback should be provided from all levels, utilizing fully the new potential of data and technology for assessment and the wider participation of people around the world. Involving women, young people and local communities, including the most vulnerable, would make it possible to obtain more disaggregated and measurable data, ensure stakeholder engagement at the national, regional and global levels, and create a common sense of ownership and accountability.

32. The forum should pay more attention to capacity- and institution-building in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island development States, in part by addressing the lack of good-quality national data in many countries. Monitoring and evaluation of the sustainable development goals must be aligned, with the help of regional commissions and national Governments. It was likewise important to assess the means of implementation that would primarily come from developed countries, and that addressed not just finance and technology needs in individual countries

but also global systemic issues, such as fair rules of trade and investment, sovereign debt restructuring, financial regulation, and intellectual property rights. To establish a just global order, more ODA, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation would be needed.

33. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that it was encouraging that financing for development and climate change had factored into the design of the post-2015 development agenda. The intense discussions that had taken place attested to the commitment of all stakeholders to ensure that the agenda and the sustainable development goals were built on a sustainable foundation. Steps needed to be taken beyond the “fit for purpose” and “business as usual” approach to ensure that the United Nations operated as one coherent, efficient, fully committed, well-focused and coordinated body.

34. His delegation applauded the fact that the maternal mortality rate had been added to the human assets index, and believed that also adding the rate of child stunting would make the index more realistic. With regard to the ODA landscape, the least developed countries welcomed the support they were receiving from different stakeholders, including philanthropic organizations and the private sector. However, that in no way meant that the role and importance of traditional ODA should be reduced. Developed countries must continue to meet and even exceed their long-standing commitment of devoting 0.2 per cent of their gross national income to the least developed countries.

35. The Istanbul Programme of Action had outlined how development partners should provide support, and how all stakeholders, including the least developed countries, must work together to achieve the target of halving the number of least developed countries by 2020. If stakeholders did not work together, the programme would fail and the international community would be ashamed as poverty and hunger would continue to spread. It would be interesting to know whether the Council, through its high-level segment, could be expected to lead the world by proposing a jobs-rich growth model that met the needs and aspirations of young people worldwide, and design a new international financial architecture that was more democratic, representative, inclusive and pro-people.

36. **Mr. Aboulatta** (Observer for Egypt) said that although poverty had been identified as a key element in the MDGs, not enough had been said about the necessary strategies for meeting development challenges in that regard. The emphasis on concessional development assistance, attributable to a donor-centric worldview, had continued to dominate the discussions on the MDGs. While the international community must attend to such unfinished business, it must also turn its attention elsewhere. For developing countries, access to markets and technology for development was far more important than foreign aid. It was necessary to redress the unfair rules of the contemporary world economy that led to a further reduction of the limited policy space available for developing countries.

37. A framework should be developed that altered the parameters of the international economic system to support development. It should allow all countries to pursue their developmental objectives according to their national priorities and policies. That framework must take into account the strategic objectives and transformational nature of the post-2015 development agenda by addressing issues such as trade, reform of the international financial system, global governance, debt, repatriation of illicit funds, and cooperation in the fields of finance and technology.

38. Partnerships, especially public-private ones, should be revitalized to become more effective at advancing the sustainable development agenda. International action for systemic reforms should be formulated as explicit commitments within the appropriate time frames. No country should be a safe haven for illicit funds, nor be prevented from fulfilling its debt rescheduling and restructuring commitments. Governments must assume their common but differentiated responsibilities; it was not enough to outsource those responsibilities to the private sector or civil society. Without such commitments, the global partnership for development would remain empty rhetoric.

39. It was important for the forum to continue attracting high-level participation and promoting a more integrated discussion of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The first two years of the forum had been challenging, in particular due to uncertainty regarding multiple ongoing negotiations. In its resolution 67/290, the General Assembly had

therefore decided to review at its seventy-third session the format and the organizational aspects of the forum.

40. His delegation supported developing a road map from the present until the 2018 review of the forum, in order to ensure that the forum could rely on solid foundations and was adequately equipped to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the fulfilment of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development, and strengthen the science-policy interface.

41. The Global Sustainable Development Report should provide analytical input for the fulfilment of implementation commitments. It should identify opportunities and challenges for implementation and potential areas for policy action and recommendations, but should not be used as a monitoring tool. As the bold and innovative ideas of civil society were at the origin of many sustainable development initiatives, the forum, like the Commission on Sustainable Development before it, should continue to be inclusive and encourage participation from a broad range of actors.

42. **Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana), acknowledging that the international community had engaged in extensive participatory processes to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda that was being developed was transformative, sustainable and inclusive, said that those processes had a critical role to play in strengthening the capacity of States, the United Nations and other relevant actors to effectively implement the agenda. All subsequent processes should clearly take into account the specific capacity needs of developing countries, including middle-income countries and those in special situations.

43. Poverty eradication and equal access to basic human necessities remained major development challenges in many countries, including Botswana; such countries required assistance with capacity-building and technology transfer. The progress made towards achieving the MDGs was a clear illustration that collective will and action could have a transformative effect on humanity and the planet.

44. The high-level political forum had a unique and fundamental role to play in ensuring the follow-up, review and effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda. It must become a reference point for strategic guidance, recommendations and political leadership by promoting the exchange of best practices and lessons learned while fostering coherence of sustainable development policies and implementation mechanisms. The full participation of Member States and greater engagement with the heads of United Nations agencies, international organizations and independent experts would be vital in that regard.

45. His delegation would welcome a discussion on strengthening the forum in order to address the increasingly wide range of issues involved in the performance of its follow-up and review role, and to ensure that it adopted a bottom-up and participatory approach that would enhance the understanding of its decisions and ensure more effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

46. **Mr. Petersen** (Observer for Denmark) said that the high-level political forum should act as a unified platform for monitoring global progress in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. It should be a place for positive exchanges that would help to improve implementation at the global, national and local levels, and should ensure inclusive participation by a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society. Peer reviews would also be useful to promote implementation and maintain the political impetus for the post-2015 development agenda. The national voluntary presentations were crucial in that regard.

47. The forum should allow for the sharing of lessons learned in all three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — as integral parts of the same solution. A case in point was the goal of sustainable consumption and production, a cross-cutting goal that had linkages with most of the other goals. The forum should also stand as the global apex of one single, overarching framework for monitoring accountability and review of the post-2015 development agenda, including means of implementation.

48. **Mr. Prosor** (Observer for Israel) said that the post-2015 development agenda could not be successful without full gender equality. New tools must be forged to implement the sustainable development agenda and

to measure, monitor and follow up on progress towards realizing the vision of sustainability in a fast-paced and complex world. Measurement was essential for knowing how far the world had come and what remained to be done. In that connection, the international community must have the most effective tools that would allow it to adjust its route, as necessary, on its journey to its final destination, namely the full implementation of the new development agenda.

49. The Bible said that man did not live by bread alone. An increase in the quantity of goods and services must therefore be matched by an improvement in the quality of peoples' lives. A country's gross domestic product (GDP) alone could not reveal everything that was important about human life. Issues such as health, education, personal security, employment, housing and air quality were essential for a true representation of social progress, human development and natural capital. Since 2012, Israel had been working with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on a pilot programme to develop new and innovative ways of measuring well-being and sustainability at the national level. Using cutting-edge indicators such as land use, life expectancy, the value of mineral stocks, air quality, labour force participation rate, and election turnout, it had been able to quantify its human and social capital, in addition to its economic and natural resources.

50. Nonetheless, numbers were not an end in themselves; they must be translated into practical policy. In that connection, the Israeli Government had adopted a future-oriented view of development and was using data as effectively as possible to develop policy that would improve peoples' lives and cater to the needs of future generations. That approach had led OECD to recognize Israel as a global pioneer in linking sustainable development and well-being to the policymaking process.

51. Ever since its days as a developing country, Israel had reached out to other countries to cooperate with them based on the lessons it had learned. Beyond training and capacity-building, it had developed strong emergency response capacities. For example, Israel had recently sent search and rescue teams to Nepal and set up field hospitals with top trauma specialists and cutting-edge medical technology following the devastating earthquake that had hit in that country. Israel remained committed to helping Nepal rebuild its

infrastructure and recover. That humanitarian response to Nepal had indeed been disproportionate: despite being a small country, Israel had had the second-largest representation on the ground, thus illustrating its commitment to universal values. The approach to sustainable development must be people-centred, allowing every human being to live with dignity.

52. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that to achieve true sustainable development, financial and non-financial resources for financing for development must be increased substantially and global solutions must be structured at all levels. The multidimensional nature of poverty must be recognized in order to ensure its sustainable eradication. New paths to sustainable development should be considered to allow for the consolidation of economies via the responsible use of natural resources, the protection of the environment, sustainable consumption and production patterns and dignity for all. Global efforts should also be made to reduce vulnerability, especially with regard to climate change, to ensure that people who had risen out of poverty did not fall back into it. The new development agenda showed the commitment of all countries to those goals, regardless of their own development status. However, implementation of the agenda would remain a challenge at the global, regional and local levels.

53. A global partnership for development that was accompanied by the necessary means of implementation aligned with the ambitions of that agenda was of the essence. Financial and non-financial assistance for developing countries, including technology and knowledge transfer and help with tax matters, would be crucial in that regard. It was also important to strengthen ties with civil society and the private sector, as the post-2015 development agenda could only be implemented with the participation and commitment of all.

54. With regard to Colombia specifically, implementation of that agenda involved one additional element: the signing of a peace agreement and post-conflict reconstruction, for a more equitable and peaceful society. The biggest challenge facing the country in that regard was to ensure the presence of the State in rural areas.

55. Lastly, the Council should continue analysing the transition to the post-2015 development agenda, to ensure that it was implemented in an efficient and

effective manner, adopting coherent, results-based and more horizontal programmes and measures involving the entire United Nations development system.

56. **Ms. Picco** (Observer for Monaco) said that her Government welcomed the inclusion of oceans and climate change in the new development agenda, without which that agenda could not be truly transformative. It was aware that the transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda would pose significant challenges, including with regard to integrating the agenda and goals into the work of the United Nations and reconciling them with existing mechanisms, conventions and frameworks. To overcome those challenges, clear and accessible data would be required so that policymakers and stakeholders on the ground could take effective action in pursuit of the goals. All sectors of society must have a stake in that process.

57. It was, moreover, important to adopt science-based approaches in initiatives to promote the three dimensions of sustainable development, which must be addressed in a holistic and balanced manner. In particular, exchanges within the scientific community and scientific oversight should be promoted with a view to ensuring that relevant stakeholders had a clear understanding of progress achieved and gaps to be addressed. The adoption of guidelines for the preparation of national reports would also enhance the follow-up process.

58. The high-level political forum on sustainable development must not only ensure effective coordination among United Nations policies and programmes, but also promote the optimal use of existing resources and mechanisms and prevent duplication of effort. The forum must be given the resources it needed to fulfil its mandate effectively as the key body responsible for following up on sustainable development policies and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

59. **Ms. Nguyen** Phuong Nga (Observer for Viet Nam) said that the global community had already made significant progress towards achieving the MDGs, bringing tangible changes to the lives of millions. For example, the number of people living in extreme poverty had fallen; a larger proportion of the world population now used improved drinking water sources; and many more children in developing countries now

completed primary schooling. Indeed, Viet Nam had already achieved more than 90 per cent of the MDG targets.

60. No one must be left behind in the post-2015 development agenda, which must put the world on the path towards a sustainable future in which the concept of development encompassed not only economic growth, but also ways to promote the well-being of each individual and safeguard the planet. The sustainable development agenda must, moreover, be implemented in ways that reflected the particular development challenges of each individual country. In that regard, Viet Nam had formulated a sustainable development strategy that would provide for effective implementation, follow-up and review mechanisms, and the sustainable development goals would be integrated into the country's upcoming five-year social and economic development plan.

61. Implementation of the new agenda would require Governments to adopt a holistic approach that carefully considered the development implications of every policy decision. Optimal use must be made of available human, financial and institutional resources, and robust support and oversight mechanisms put in place. The agenda should be crafted as an agenda of the people, for the people; all stakeholders, including individuals, communities, non-governmental organizations and businesses, should therefore be fully engaged in the development process. Above all, strong political will would be required, particularly from developed countries and other development partners, which must provide the necessary resources for the full implementation of the agenda.

62. **Mr. Delattre** (France) said that the high-level political forum on sustainable development was an invaluable instrument for enhancing sustainable development oversight. The forum must be supported by existing mechanisms and guided by relevant reports, including the Global Sustainable Development Report, and must make use of accurate and disaggregated data to formulate guidelines for development policy while preventing duplication or fragmentation of efforts or resources. Efforts should also be made to facilitate the sharing of best practices among States, including through peer reviews.

63. To strengthen the credibility and effectiveness of the forum and support reform of the Council, the links between those bodies must be mutually reinforcing and

complementary. The effectiveness of the forum depended on the effectiveness and coherence of the United Nations institutions that sustained it. Further reforms of the United Nations system as a whole would therefore be needed following the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. The forum must, moreover, foster transparency and facilitate the voluntary participation of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

64. The outcomes of the third International Conference on Financing for Development must be commensurate with the ambitions set forth in the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda; a new financing system to meet global sustainable development challenges was needed. Stakeholders must also strive to develop synergies between global development policies and climate change policies. In that connection, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris, must adopt an ambitious universal agreement between States to combat climate change with a view to creating a world without carbon emissions or poverty.

65. **Mr. Mukerji** (India) said that the MDGs had succeeded in galvanizing the political will for action to foster human development and combat poverty. The sustainable development goals had the potential to build on that success and to radically transform the lives of the world's poor, allowing them to live in dignity, while also promoting environmental sustainability. Significant challenges remained, however. Millions of people continued to live in abject poverty, were chronically undernourished, lacked access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation, essential medicines, adequate shelter and electricity. Child mortality rates were much higher in low-income countries than in high-income countries, while the gap in life expectancy between low- and high-income countries remained significant.

66. The world must therefore maintain its focus on the overarching objective of eradicating poverty and hunger and improving the well-being of people worldwide. To succeed in that endeavour, consumption patterns and lifestyles must change; the rate of consumption of resources by certain developed countries, for example, was clearly unsustainable.

67. The high-level political forum must play a facilitative oversight role to enhance implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, focusing on identifying and disseminating evidence-based solutions. The forum must respect national sovereignty and should seek to enhance international cooperation and the sharing of information, best practices and lessons learned in the field of development. India cautioned, however, that universality of application did not amount to uniformity of application: the agenda must be a differentiated one that reflected the developmental diversity of the world and took into account the special circumstances of developing countries.

68. **Mr. Koncke** (Observer for Uruguay) said that the post-2015 development agenda was an extremely ambitious intergovernmental project, the scope of which went far beyond that of the MDGs. The new agenda must focus on the multiple and interconnected challenges of poverty eradication, social inclusion, gender equity, human rights, including with regard to sexual orientation and freedom of opinion, and the reduction of inequality. Uruguay commended the universal nature of the high-level political forum and its mandate to follow up on and monitor progress in implementing the sustainable development agenda. Once that agenda had been adopted, the high-level political forum would serve as a platform for dialogue that would generate policy recommendations for Member States.

69. Official development assistance (ODA) would remain critical to funding and promoting development for many countries. In that regard, the criteria used by financing institutions to define and classify middle-income countries should be reviewed and modified to take into account the percentage of people living in extreme poverty; classifying countries based simply on income disparities did not reflect the full range of obstacles to development. A broader range of indicators that could demonstrate each country's situation and identify its major needs was required.

70. The current allocation criteria for international cooperation overlooked the needs of poor people living in so-called middle-income countries, who made up 70 per cent of people living in poverty, and ultimately undermined the pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development. The commitments set out in Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the

principles outlined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, must be reaffirmed. Further efforts must also be made to promote technology transfer and capacity development in developing countries.

71. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that, although the international community had made substantial, albeit uneven, progress towards achieving the MDGs, the gap between developing and developed countries remained significant and many developing countries still lacked the expertise and financial and technical resources they needed to drive forward their development agendas. Furthermore, trade protectionism was on the rise, reforms to global economic governance mechanisms were slow, and the global economic outlook remained uncertain and unstable. Against that background, it was crucial that the international community should set the total eradication of poverty as the core task of the post-2015 development agenda and should encourage States to strive for inclusive development and equality while balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development.

72. Robust global partnerships for development were needed. The international community must adapt to the new globalized economy, uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and adopt cooperation paradigms that promoted the interests of all stakeholders. In particular, developed countries should honour their ODA commitments and transfer technologies to developing countries to enhance their sustainable development capacities.

73. States must collaborate to create open, transparent and non-discriminatory international trade and financial systems, and should promote and strengthen the new online economy, and respect the development paths chosen by other countries. In that regard, South-South cooperation was an effective complement to traditional North-South cooperation paradigms; the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders should also play a greater role in promoting synergy between development initiatives.

74. Developing countries must be granted a greater say in the ongoing debate on global economic governance. Indeed, the international community must seek to achieve broad-based political consensus with a view to developing an equitable, inclusive and sustainable post-2015 development agenda. Countries

must comply with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and adhere to the principles enshrined in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. To ensure effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, strong institutional and international oversight would be needed; the high-level political forum on sustainable development could play a key role as a follow-up and review mechanism in that regard.

75. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) said that failure to adopt long-term economic, social and environmental policies had exacerbated financial market and commodity price volatility and increased global income inequality, hindered job creation and undermined social and political stability. The adoption of the sustainable development goals would constitute a significant step in efforts to address those global challenges. As implementation of the MDG agenda had been uneven, the global community and the United Nations must adopt a set of credible and achievable goals in which all stakeholders, including Governments, civil society and the business community, had a stake.

76. The high-level political forum and the Council had a key role to play in providing guidance and following up on the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. To achieve that objective, a set of universal and targeted indicators was needed. The forum must be empowered to fulfil its role as the body with primary responsibility for monitoring implementation of the agenda at the national, regional and global levels and must develop effective review and accountability mechanisms to that end.

77. **Ms. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that, building on the success of the MDGs, the international community must seek to enhance the institutional oversight of, and synergy between, development initiatives. Developing countries, whose social and economic development was being seriously undermined by climate change and both natural and man-made disasters, continued to suffer high levels of entrenched poverty and chronic hunger. In the final push to formulate the post-2015 development agenda, every effort must be made to address the needs of developing countries, particularly least developed countries, and the factors preventing them graduating from that category, including

infrastructure constraints and limited access to global markets.

78. In that regard, there was a need for a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system and the provision of robust trade-related technical and capacity-building assistance to least developed countries, and especially to landlocked least developed countries. To overcome the significant digital divide between developing and developed countries, it was crucial to promote the transfer of technology, to allow developing countries to develop knowledge-based economies. Access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy was another key development enabler. Furthermore, ODA commitments to least developed countries should be honoured, in line with their needs and priorities, and balanced between productive and social sectors.

79. A global partnership for development with mutual accountability mechanisms was also required. North-South cooperation should remain a core element of global development cooperation, with South-South and triangular cooperation providing complementary support. Indeed, international support would prove critical in enabling Nepal to graduate from least developed country status by 2022, particularly in the light of the devastating earthquake that had stricken the country in April 2015.

80. **Mr. Wilson** (United Kingdom) said that the international community had an opportunity in 2015 to revitalize its approach to development. The post-2015 development agenda must be clear and understandable, and all stakeholders, including Governments, civil society organizations and businesses, must be empowered to monitor progress with a view to sharing lessons learned and taking effective, collective action to accelerate progress towards achieving the development goals and targets that would be agreed in September 2015. Accurate monitoring and accountability mechanisms would prove vital in national and global efforts to ensure that the new goals and targets, to the extent they helped to improve the well-being of all social and income groups, including the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of society.

81. Accurate disaggregated data would be needed to ensure that progress remained on track and optimal choices were made in the light of stakeholders' limited resources and capacities. To that end, action must be taken to enhance relevant stakeholders' data gathering

and analysis capacities, and to provide transparent and easily-accessible data on development. Furthermore, it was critical to promote broad participation in relevant forums on development, including the high-level political forum, and in the implementation of countries' development projects.

82. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that the majority of Governments, civil society actors and media organizations appreciated the breadth and depth of the draft post-2015 development agenda. That agenda would enhance coordination among stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels, promote a revitalized global partnership for development, facilitate the mobilization of financial and non-financial resources, and provide for effective follow-up and review mechanisms. All countries should embrace it, while also upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

83. Furthermore, following the adoption of the new agenda, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean would launch a regional forum on sustainable development in 2016, while the high-level political forum, the foremost review and follow-up mechanism, would coordinate inputs from national, regional and thematic processes. The adoption of the agenda would also provide an opportunity to implement reforms within the United Nations in order to enhance its resilience and capacity to address emerging challenges.

84. **Ms. Donaldson** (Australia) said that a coherent and efficient follow-up and review mechanism would prove critical if the international community was to deliver on the ambition of the post-2015 development agenda. The high-level political forum should constitute the apex of the global review system and should adopt a thematic approach which would allow it to identify cross-cutting issues and better understand the relationship between the various goals and reflect on the integrated nature of the post-2015 development agenda. The forum must also remain accessible to all relevant policymakers and development partners.

85. A wide variety of forum sessions, including interactive discussions and informal exchanges of views, would be welcome, as would further discussions on how existing thematic reviews, including the Human Development Reports, could serve as useful input to discussions. In that connection, the analysis contained in the draft 2015 Global Sustainable Development Report of the links between the goals and

of the relevance of existing thematic reviews to the 17 proposed goals constituted a useful step towards data and analyses aggregation.

86. It was crucial, moreover, to recognize regional and subregional diversity: regions must be empowered to establish mechanisms appropriate to their particular circumstances that fostered regional cooperation and facilitated the sharing of best practices. Countries should adopt flexible approaches and conduct meaningful and contextually appropriate national reviews; initial reviews processes should focus on generating the data needed to enhance national policies, rather than on ensuring that analyses were conducted using standardized formats. Every effort should be made to avoid duplication among forums and the review process should be allowed to evolve in the light of lessons learned.

87. **Mr. Skoog** (Sweden) said that the current session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development was taking place at a critical time. The international community's efforts to formulate the post-2015 development agenda were commendable, but the success of the new agenda would depend on the extent to which it was successfully implemented. While stakeholders must focus primarily on implementation at the national level, the forum would play a vital role in monitoring progress at the global level, promoting accountability, identifying challenges and opportunities and facilitating the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships for a successful implementation of the agenda.

88. The forum should provide political leadership and, to avoid duplication of effort, should, as far as possible, aggregate the outputs of existing monitoring mechanisms. It should also monitor the financing for development process with a view to ensuring more comprehensive follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda and maximizing synergies and results. It must also seek to strengthen the science-policy interface with a view to promoting sustainable development globally. In that regard, analyses contained in the Global Sustainable Development Report must meet the highest technical standards and be made available to policymakers in addition to the scientific community.

89. Sweden also believed that the input of civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders was critical in efforts to facilitate implementation of the agenda, and encouraged them to participate

actively in the forum and in relevant decision-making bodies at the regional and national levels.

90. **Mr. Velikhov** (Observer for the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions) said that the proposed sustainable development goals had shown that the international community had refined its understanding of development. Having contributed to the achievement of the MDGs, particularly in the areas of international development and the promotion of social well-being, his organization believed that, in the light of recent economic and political crises, which had had a significant negative impact on developing countries, the international community should now place greater emphasis on long-term sustainable development.

91. It was crucial that the transition to the new goals should proceed smoothly; in that regard, the upsurge in violence and human rights abuses in certain developing countries in recent years was a matter of concern. Moreover, rapid technological change was placing many societies under stress and undermining people's emotional and spiritual well-being. Much progress had been achieved, however; many countries, particularly middle-income countries, had witnessed significant economic growth, and non-governmental organizations were playing an increasingly active role as development partners.

92. In the light of the changing developmental landscape, the United Nations must reconsider its role and strengthen its resilience so that it was optimally placed to address emerging challenges on the global stage, including in areas such as information technology. Furthermore, if rising income gaps between countries, regions and populations were to be narrowed, international commitments to improve the situation of the most marginalized and vulnerable must be honoured and every effort must be made to create a safer and more secure world, while respecting the sovereignty of States and their particular cultural and developmental characteristics.

93. Efforts must also be made to strengthen national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, enhance communication between relevant stakeholders worldwide and encourage the participation of civil society in development initiatives. The post-2015 development agenda must take into account resource constraints and foster knowledge-sharing while also strengthening democratic mechanisms and upholding the principles of good governance.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.