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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 4th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 8 October 2015, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Logar ..... (Slovenia)

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General debate (*continued*)

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

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Ramazanov** (Ukraine) said that in view of the high expectations to deliver concrete action on the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee should make every effort to improve its effectiveness. Recognition of the gaps and synergies between Sustainable Development Goals, as emphasized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, should lay the foundation for all development efforts. Ukraine welcomed the Chair's proposal to make the issue of sustainable development the overarching framework of the Committee's agenda instead of just one cluster of the agenda. It also welcomed continued efforts to reduce the number and length of adopted draft resolutions, so as to enhance their quality, and increased coordination among United Nations organs and between the General Assembly and international or regional bodies.

2. In spite of exceptionally challenging circumstances, namely, insurgent activities which had been provoked and supported and which had breached the territorial integrity of Ukraine and led to a major humanitarian crisis, his country had managed to establish strong internal mechanisms and relationships of trust with its international partners in order to implement all of the clusters of the Humanitarian Response Plan, and initiate development and recovery plans for affected areas.

3. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia) said that although the members of the General Assembly had been given the mandate to move forward with implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, little had changed since the general debate of the previous session of the Second Committee. The state of the global financial and economic crises was uncertain, if not worse than the previous year. Gross domestic product (GDP) had shrunk and foreign direct investment (FDI) remained volatile, while the state of the environment had further deteriorated. The input, visions and pledges made by Member States during the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda should serve to guide the work of the Committee. The indicators to be developed the following year on the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals and

associated targets should take into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities.

4. Malaysia called for enhanced efforts to assist the least developed countries, small island developing States, and landlocked developing countries, as well as middle-income countries to achieve their goals for sustainable development. It was also important that the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Paris in December 2015, delivered significant progress in line with the 2030 Agenda.

5. His delegation was also concerned at the fragility of the global economic and financial situation, as it could have a severe impact on the emerging economies. Market demands had shrunk, trade surplus was diminishing and development assistance requirements continued to burden small-medium economies. Global trade remained stagnant, as evidenced by the recent *Trade and Development Report, 2015*, released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. World merchandise trade had grown minimally since the global economic crisis. Developing countries had been hit the hardest, as they were the main producers of commodities. Domestic consumption had provided a certain amount of relief, but it was hardly sustainable.

6. Despite several policy interventions, the threat of another world economic recession remained. The persistent failure to transform the international financial architecture had dampened efforts to strengthen regulation, monitoring and supervision. It had been evident during the financing for development negotiation process that developed economies were reluctant to hold an inclusive discussion on international tax matters at the United Nations. International financial regulation, monitoring and supervision were tools to assist developing countries and cushion them from the repercussions of global financial crises, which could adversely affect their capacity to mobilize resources for development.

7. South-South cooperation was a vital element of international development and a basis for national and collective self-reliance; it ensured that developing countries were integrated in the world economy. Malaysia remained committed to South-South

cooperation, which was to be seen as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

8. **Ms. Parkash** (Singapore) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which were distinct but interrelated and mutually reinforcing processes, had been seminal collective achievements, but much remained to be done to operationalize their outcomes. The mandate of the high-level political forum on sustainable development; the follow-up and review framework of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and the review of global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework would all have to be addressed. Deliberations should be inclusive and consensual to ensure buy-in by all countries and stakeholders; all countries should adapt solutions from the 2030 Agenda to their own national priorities and circumstances. In particular, the Paris Climate Change Conference would affect the implementation of all three processes. The Second Committee should therefore underscore the need for a meaningful outcome at the Paris Conference.

9. The Second Committee would consider the 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which should deliver a New Urban Agenda to support the achievement of Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals. In Singapore, experience had shown that urbanization could be harnessed as a driver of sustainable development. The Committee would also consider the establishment of a small-island developing States partnership framework, and improvements to the United Nations system's support for those States as a result of the outcomes of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. That framework should contribute to the implementation by small island developing States of the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, Singapore was working with United Nations agencies on an event to commemorate World Toilet Day to highlight the benefits of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. The Second Committee would be considering new resolutions on operationalizing the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework. To support their implementation, the

Committee might not be able to continue with a "business-as-usual" approach to its organization of work; it should therefore find time to discuss that difficult question, if necessary, after the conclusion of its programme of work for the current session of the General Assembly.

11. **Mr. Ciss** (Senegal) said that while his delegation was pleased that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had been adopted, millions of people were still far from being free of poverty and hunger. The gravity of the migration situation, whether forced or voluntary, as well as innumerable human tragedies, urgently required a collective international response. Reform of economic and financial governance was necessary to ensure the participation of developing countries in decision-making processes as well as their access to credit and project financing. In implementing the 2030 Agenda, priority should be given to financing for infrastructure vital to long-term development, and to adequate remuneration for mining and oil contracts, in accordance with the requirements of fairness, social justice and corporate social responsibility. A more proactive approach to fulfilling official development assistance (ODA) pledges would guarantee better predictability of aid flows and thus make them more effective.

12. The outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference should be ambitious, balanced, universal and legally binding, and contain global warming to less than 2°C, while there was still time to do so. The expected agreement should contain urgent measures for adaptation; for means of adequate, predictable and sustainable implementation; for transfer of technologies adapted to the needs of countries; and for capacity-building, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. At the same time, respect should be maintained for the Sendai Declaration, the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Green Climate Fund, and efforts to further combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion. Building a prosperous world also called for more transparency in international transactions, including the extractive industry, increased promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and construction of infrastructure to facilitate commerce and investment.

13. Special emphasis should be placed on the issue of urban sustainable development, which was indispensable for developing countries. His delegation

encouraged countries to begin careful preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which would take place in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

14. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a core component of the means of implementation of the 2030 development agenda, was an opportunity to reinvigorate the global partnership for financing for sustainable development since it created a global framework to mobilize financing and technology and move from commitment to action. The work of the Second Committee should therefore be anchored by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 development agenda, and its deliberations should focus on how the Sustainable Development Goals could be reflected in national policies, through a revitalized global partnership and political commitment from development partners as a means of addressing economic, social, geopolitical and climatic challenges.

15. The political momentum of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and of the summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda should be maintained in order to secure agreement on a universal and legally binding climate change deal at the Paris Climate Change Conference. The Second Committee was well placed to contribute to a favourable political atmosphere in which to address climate change. His Government had implemented comprehensive policies in favour of inclusive and sustainable development. With one of the fastest growing economies in the world, Ethiopia was on track to meet most of the Millennium Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals had already been mainstreamed into its second five-year development strategy. Furthermore, a climate-resilient green economy strategy was being implemented with a view to turning Ethiopia into a zero-carbon middle-income country by 2025. The strategy had also been mainstreamed into the national poverty reduction plan.

16. National development efforts such as those under way in his country required an enabling international environment; the international community should therefore provide additional financial and technological support for developing countries and the least developed countries in particular. The findings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing had shown that abundant resources had yet to be unlocked.

17. **Ms. Hassan-Sharp** (New Zealand) said that the Second Committee had the responsibility of ensuring that its work was aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. To that end, it was important to recognize and respond to the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by some Member States, including the least developed countries and small island developing States; to have inclusive global partnerships; and to define and agree on an appropriate follow-up and review mechanism for the agendas under discussion. It was also important to maintain, rather than renegotiate, the hard-won and delicate political balance that had been struck; any attempt to reopen the discussion would only delay agreement on resolutions needed to guide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

18. In conclusion, she said that her delegation would be advocating for focus and alignment of the Committee's work with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda during the discussion on the Committee's agenda and working methods.

19. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his country attached great importance to the eradication of poverty and hunger because of their impact on development, especially at a time of disturbance and inequality in the global economy. Climate change was in turn linked to crises resulting from desertification, flooding, rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns and, consequently, food insecurity. His country was also seeking to derive energy from renewable sources and create decent employment for young people of both genders. Solutions to the challenges of development should be fully consistent with the principles of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

20. Reform of the international economic system had become a priority; the international community should implement the Sustainable Development Goals free of the burdens of the past, for example through debt cancellation and the establishment of shock-absorbing mechanisms. Greater importance should be accorded to countries in post-conflict situations, least developed countries such as the Sudan, and landlocked developing countries. Unilateral economic, financial or commercial sanctions and coercive measures imposed on certain developing countries, including the Sudan, should be lifted because of their negative impact on development and economic cooperation.

21. Foreign debt was one of the major obstacles preventing the Sudan from benefiting from official development assistance and resources provided by various States, even though the Sudan had qualified for the Bretton Woods Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative by honouring all its obligations and meeting all the conditions. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals required the mobilization of additional financial and other resources as well as transfers of modern technology to developing countries on special and preferential terms.

22. A non-discriminatory multilateral trading system should be established and all obstacles to membership in the World Trade Organization should be lifted so that all countries could benefit from the many privileges and facilities provided by that Organization to its members. South-South cooperation had helped to build capacity in the areas of health, education, training, the environment, technology, trade and investment, but it should also be accompanied by international cooperation between North and South and by triangular cooperation.

23. The new development agenda specified that sustainable development could not be achieved without peace. The Sudan had made efforts to end violence, build peace as part of national poverty eradication plans, provide employment and basic services, and focus on rural development, inter alia, by empowering women. As the head of the African negotiating team in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, his country was looking forward to the Paris Climate Change Conference, which should define a global legal framework and a comprehensive agreement providing solutions for developing countries seeking to mitigate the negative impact of climate change. The Conference should commit to assisting all Member States in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to paying \$100 billion a year to developing countries. The Sudan had rich and biodiverse ecosystems ranging from desert in the north to savannah in the south and was a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol. It had also put in place a national strategy and action plan within the framework of its commitments to that Convention in order to safeguard biodiversity. Furthermore, the Sudan was working in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to control desertification.

24. **Mr. Swan** (Australia) said that development challenges could not be solved by Governments alone and that the involvement of citizens, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector was fundamental to success. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda linked good governance, private sector investment, job growth and taxation and provided a framework for the mobilization of trillions of dollars, while also integrating gender equality, climate change and disaster resilience into the development finance landscape. The 2030 Agenda had unprecedented buy-in and legitimacy as a result of consultation and negotiation involving all States Members of the United Nations. Australia had worked closely with partners to ensure that the Agenda adopted a modern approach and reflected its own regional priorities, including economic growth, gender equality, women's economic empowerment, sustainable use of oceans and peace and governance. The Committee must now consider how it would contribute to developing global indicators to track the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals. Australia would continue to work with all Member States to explore innovative ways of promoting development, and to realize the vision of global prosperity and stability.

25. **Mr. Sarki** (Nigeria) said that the Sustainable Development Goals provided another opportunity to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and would give hope to millions of people. ODA could play a critical role in least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. Developed countries needed to honour their ODA commitments to developing countries and explore new and innovative finance mechanisms; concerted efforts should be made to address illicit financial flows from African countries and repatriate such funds without delay. Developing countries and least developed countries, for their part, should also emphasize innovative financing mechanisms and domestic resource mobilization, and monitor illegal exploitation of natural resources. A framework for global tax cooperation would be necessary in order to address the issue of tax evasion by multinational corporations and enhance the revenue base of developing countries.

26. Given the importance of trade and foreign direct investment, especially in developing countries, policies should be adopted which were conducive not only to trade between developing and developed countries, but also to South-South and triangular cooperation. As

desertification, drought and land degradation had devastated crops and caused water shortages and the death of livestock, especially in the Sahel region, Nigeria welcomed the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. The Strategy aimed to provide opportunities, prevent future political upheavals, and ensure that the region did not become a breeding ground for terrorists and criminals. His delegation encouraged the United Nations to sustain its efforts to address the challenges of the Sahel region.

27. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was the legitimate and principal forum for addressing climate change. Nigeria hoped that the political will necessary to reach an agreement to keep global warming below 2°C would materialize at the Paris Climate Change Conference in December. Nigeria called on the developed countries to fulfil their commitments to the Green Climate Fund by meeting the agreed goal of US\$100 billion per year by 2020.

28. Regardless of the shores or borders at which migrants arrived, it was important to treat them humanely. Countries such as Italy and Greece were to be commended for demonstrating compassion and solidarity by accepting thousands of them

29. **Mr. Montilla** (Dominican Republic) said that poverty eradication and the reduction of social inequalities remained unfinished business for Latin American and Caribbean countries such as the Dominican Republic. The role of the State should therefore be to redistribute wealth, create opportunities and safeguard the rights of all citizens.

30. The interests of all should prevail over individual interests at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference, which should lead to an ambitious, legally binding and universal agreement on climate change, including commitments on reducing greenhouse gases. Failure to do so would merely increase poverty, hunger and natural disasters. Support from the international community was urgently required to implement the Samoa Pathway and thereby assist sustainable development efforts. In that context, the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy Initiative in States that were members of the Alliance of Small Island States promised to be an innovative and effective instrument. His country supported the establishment of an action plan to enable middle-income countries to have access to affordable sources of financing.

31. Sustainable development was synonymous with women's empowerment through reduced inequalities and greater involvement of women in political life. He stressed that no person should lack food and no child should suffer from malnutrition. Food insecurity, including staple food price volatility, continued to be a cause for concern, especially in emergency situations where food supplies were cut off and agricultural production was disrupted. Access to credit, rural infrastructure modernization, and watershed reforestation would continue to improve the living conditions of small farmers and boost sustainable development in the Dominican Republic.

32. **Mr. Dabbashi** (Libya) said that poverty was the biggest constraint on the implementation of the 2030 development agenda. Poverty eradication must therefore be made the central objective of the new development agenda. It was also important to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by mobilizing domestic and international financial resources, promoting international technical and financial cooperation for development, tackling foreign debt, and providing governmental oversight of financing for development while taking into account the links between all sources of financing and the need for them to cover all three dimensions of sustainable development. The right to development and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should remain the basis for sustainable development. An international mechanism was needed to facilitate transfers of technology to developing countries since bridging the technical gap with developed countries would enable developing countries to achieve development and growth. Also important were the principles of sound governance, respect for national sovereignty and the cultural and social values of States, and respect for all human rights. Indeed, every State had the sovereign right and primary responsibility to achieve socioeconomic development.

33. The international financial system should channel investments in accordance with the estimated financing needs of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as tackling imbalances, sovereign debt restructuring and the accumulation of reserves in a limited number of States. Official development assistance was an important source of financing for developing countries and developed countries should fulfil their obligations in that area. Products from developing countries should have easier access to international markets, and

accession to the World Trade Organization should be facilitated. Stability and development were closely related, meaning that the restoration of security and stability was a prerequisite for achieving growth. His country needed support from fraternal and friendly states to restore security and institutions so as to launch reconstruction and development programmes. It was to be hoped that the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya would lead to a national consensus Government that could begin implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. The flight of capital from developing countries to developed countries and to safe havens in certain small countries slowed the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Domestic legislation in some countries made them a safe haven for smuggling and money laundering, shell companies and secret accounts. All countries should implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption and find mechanisms to repatriate plundered funds to their original countries. Libya sought the assistance of all States in recovering all plundered Libyan funds abroad so that it could invest them in development and education, health care and other services.

35. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that the Committee should devote attention to the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries, such as their remoteness, lack of direct territorial access to the sea and isolation from world markets. The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and the 2030 Agenda were two sides of the same coin, and implementing them effectively would help those countries. As its sovereign debt had reached 58.3 per cent of GDP, Mongolia supported further discussion of debt restructuring and management processes. Steady growth in the mining sector over the previous decade had made his country more dependent on a few commodity exports and thus more vulnerable to price fluctuations; the rise of the extractive industry had also come at the cost of the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Mongolia's experience had proven that achieving the goal of poverty reduction was not easy for a developing country with a transition economy.

36. His delegation hoped that the agreement on climate change, to be adopted in Paris in December, would take into consideration the special challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. Convinced

that agriculture, food security and nutrition were key to eradicating poverty, his Government was making every effort to increase productivity and entrepreneurship, and promote and utilize environmentally friendly technology in the agricultural and agro-industry sectors. Demonstrating its commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Government had established a national implementation mechanism and organized a dialogue and inception meeting on the national platform for disaster risk reduction.

37. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that the work of the current session of the General Assembly and the Second Committee should focus on comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in several respects. First, the Agenda had set out high targets and demands, and each country should, according to national conditions, organically link its domestic development strategy with the Agenda, mobilize domestic resources, increase development inputs, accelerate economic growth, and promote sustainable development, so that development would more fully benefit the people.

38. Second, priority should be accorded to eliminating poverty and promoting development, which constituted the core of the 2030 Agenda. Issues such as poverty and hunger, which related to people's basic survival in the developing world, should be given special attention, as should the difficulties and challenges faced by African countries and least developed countries. Development should be viewed as a common objective for all countries, and the relationship among the economy, the society and the environment should be treated in a balanced manner. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be pursued; all countries should be encouraged to cooperate in global development according to their respective capabilities.

39. Third, global partnerships for development should be strengthened. Ensuring adequate and stable resources was crucial to progress in international cooperation for development, and was an important part of the 2030 Agenda. Action should be taken on the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and resources should be mobilized to achieve development goals. North-South cooperation should serve as the primary channel for development financing, and developed countries should fulfil their ODA promises in an adequate and

timely manner, increasing their financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries.

40. Fourth, South-South cooperation, which was an advantageous complement to North-South cooperation, should be deepened. At the recent United Nations summits, China and the United Nations had jointly hosted the High-Level Round Table on South-South Cooperation, at which President Xi Jinping had characterized the important experiences in that domain as being founded on mutual trust, benefit and assistance, and equality and win-win outcomes. He had advocated for the developing countries to explore diverse paths of development, promote linkages among the development strategies of different countries, achieve practical results and improve the global development framework, so that South-South cooperation would be raised to a new level. The 2030 Agenda was an opportunity for developing countries to further unite in solidarity and collaborate in the interest of self-strengthening; their development would thus be promoted at a higher level, to a broader extent, and in more varied capacities.

41. Fifth, the international development structures should be improved. The United Nations should play a leading role in implementing the 2030 Agenda, by consolidating resources, coordinating the work of specialized agencies and providing policy and intellectual support to Member States. The international community should strengthen global economic governance, consolidate the multilateral trading system, expedite the reform of the international financial system and increase the representation and voice of the developing countries. Development should be more effectively integrated into the coordination of global macropolicy, and a more favourable environment created for the developing countries by means of finance, trade and investment.

42. Sixth, a concerted response should be applied to development challenges. The international community should strengthen cooperation in order to address new challenges such as climate change and food and energy security. Adhering to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the primary channel for addressing climate change, and in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities as well as equity and respective capabilities, a comprehensive and balanced climate change agreement should be the outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference in December. An

agricultural trade order that was fair, reasonable, sustained and stable should be established, and support in agriculture to developing countries should be strengthened and food productivity increased, so as to create a world free of hunger. The world's energy security should be protected under the principles of mutual benefit and cooperation, diversified development, and collaborative safeguards.

43. The Chinese economy was currently shifting from high growth to medium-high growth, to a "new normal" where inputs and investment were being replaced by innovation as the main driver of growth. In 2015, progress had been made while maintaining stability, reform had been deepened in a comprehensive manner, and risks and challenges had been addressed. Overall, the trend of steady growth had continued, and with a growth rate of 7 per cent, China had accounted for 30 per cent of the growth of the world economy in the first half of 2015. It should be noted that, although China's economy was still facing downward pressure, the economic fundamentals favourable to long-term development had not changed, nor had the essential features of resilience and ample potential and manoeuvring room. The good foundation and conditions for sustained economic growth, as well as the momentum for restructuring and optimization, also remained unchanged. Taking economic development as the central task and striving to improve its quality and effectiveness, China would deepen reform and opening up and promote healthy and sustainable development. Indeed, optimizing and upgrading the Chinese economy would offer the world more markets, growth, investment and opportunities for cooperation and make a greater contribution to global development and prosperity.

44. China was an important participant in and contributor to global cooperation for development. While attending recent summits at the United Nations, President Xi Jinping had announced a series of important initiatives, including establishing the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund and the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund; increasing investment in least developed countries; forgiving the debt of the outstanding intergovernmental interest-free loans due at the end of 2015 by the relevant least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and providing programme support, through the "Six 100s" initiative, to developing countries over the next five years in the



areas of poverty eradication, agricultural cooperation, trade promotion, environmental protection and climate change, medical facilities, and education and training.

45. Guided by the new concept of development put forward by President Xi Jinping, centred on equity, openness, comprehensiveness and innovation, China would carry out those important initiatives, and work indefatigably with the United Nations and its Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda.

46. **Mr. Andanje** (Kenya) said that as 70 per cent of the people living in poverty resided in middle-income countries, his delegation welcomed the discussions on the special challenges faced by African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries. Rising debt levels in developing countries, resulting in national debt unsustainability, was a trend that should be reversed. The challenge was further compounded by the fact that middle-income countries were not eligible for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and were losing access to grants faster than they were gaining access to soft loans from bilateral and multilateral resources. Kenya remained committed to establishing a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring and hoped that all interested parties would continue to work toward that end.

47. A United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism would ensure the transfer of appropriate and affordable technologies to developing countries. His delegation looked forward to the establishment of its modalities. Kenya also hoped that the Paris Climate Change Conference would produce an ambitious and comprehensive agreement that consolidated progress achieved thus far, including on poverty eradication.

48. **Ms. Perceval** (Argentina) said that, regrettably, the existing global economic system was not delivering effective solutions at a time when millions of human beings did not have the means to survive, let alone live in dignity, while wealth was concentrated in the hands of the few. Thousands were forced to risk their lives to flee intractable conflicts while the greed of unscrupulous entrepreneurs led them to take advantage of loopholes in order to increase their wealth, for example by manipulating the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) or lying about emissions from motor vehicles.

49. The international community should focus on implementing structural changes in the global financial system so that international financial institutions would become more democratic, representative and legitimate, and responsibility for decisions was shared by all instead of being in the hands of a few individuals. In that context, the adoption of resolution 69/319, reflecting the democratic will of the majority that in other forums had no voice, was a major step towards containing unscrupulous minority creditors who endangered development. The resolution would help ensure that sovereign debt restructuring was more efficient, transparent and fair, and send a clear message to so-called vulture funds that took advantage of the lack of a regulatory framework or principles governing the activities of the financial sector. It was significant that that step had been taken in the General Assembly, a universal and democratic body free of conflicts of interest. The resolution built on past studies, and on observations made by specialized financial institutions.

50. Climate change would reach the point of no return unless coordinated action was taken. According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, developed countries had the greatest responsibility and should take the lead by providing the means of implementation for adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries. The agreement to be reached at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference should strengthen the implementation of the Convention in a balanced manner, and consistently with its principles and goals, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Member States should fulfil their commitments to the Green Climate Fund, ensuring that financing levels matched the needs of developing countries.

51. The operational activities for development of the United Nations should have an increased role in order to help developing countries achieve their development goals through greater efficiency, effectiveness and transparency as well as increased resources. National capacity-building was needed for developing countries to address their long-term challenges. Financing of United Nations activities therefore needed to be increased in order to align the United Nations system with the priorities set by Member States while respecting the principles of national ownership and neutrality. Her country would work in the General Assembly to ensure genuine multilateralism. As a

result, there was no room for a “business-as-usual” approach to the eradication of poverty by 2030.

52. **Mr. González Soca** (Cuba) said that as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development became the focus of the Second Committee’s work in the coming months and years, it would be important to remember that not all of the Millennium Development Goals had been achieved; poverty and social inequality remained unacceptably high, even in industrialized countries. According to the United Nations Development Programme, the wealthiest 8 per cent of the world’s population earned around half of the world’s total income. The resources available for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were not commensurate with the scope and ambitiousness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals it comprised. Tangible commitments were needed in the area of development aid, and the problem of foreign debt that had already been paid off several times over must be solved. She called for a different international financial architecture, an end to technological and knowledge monopolies, and a change in the existing international economic order. The industrialized countries should acknowledge their historical debt by putting into practice the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. A shortage of resources could not be invoked when \$1.7 billion were being devoted to military spending every year. The international community could not indefinitely postpone the recognition of the right to development.

53. The role of the Second Committee with regard to macroeconomic, financial, commercial and sustainable development issues central to Agenda 2030 should not be undervalued. His delegation agreed that efficiency and effectiveness were important but must not affect quality, or the substance and quantity of the issues taken up by the Committee.

54. The restoration of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States, the opening of embassies and the policy changes announced by President Barack Obama were major advances that had attracted the support of the international community. However, the continuing economic, commercial and financial embargo led to deprivation for the Cuban people and was the main obstacle to the economic development of Cuba. It affected other countries because of its extraterritorial scope and was also detrimental to the

interests of United States citizens and enterprises. That policy had been rejected by 188 States Members of the United Nations, which had called for it to end. Cuba would therefore, for the twenty-fourth year in a row, and as announced by President Raúl Castro Ruz, submit a draft resolution to the United Nations General Assembly entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”. His country had nevertheless achieved the Millennium Development Goals and provided assistance to other developing countries in various areas. Cuba would continue to do so wherever its limited resources allowed, and would never relinquish its belief in human dignity, solidarity and social justice that was at the heart of its socialist society.

55. **Mr. Amer** (Israel) said that establishing a robust and effective follow-up and review mechanism would be crucial to assessing the progress of the 2030 Agenda. Israel welcomed the inclusion of the promotion of gender equality and maternal, newborn and child health in the new agenda. Israel’s International Agency for Development Cooperation (MASHAV) had focused on capacity-building in areas in which the country had a competitive advantage, such as agricultural technology, desertification, microenterprise development, entrepreneurship, public health and the empowerment of women and youth. The Agency had been sharing innovative solutions with countries around the world by way of bilateral and multilateral partnerships. The forthcoming 29th International Conference for Women Leaders, organized by MASHAV in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP, would provide a platform for the promotion of gender equality through economic empowerment and strengthen the global network of women leaders. During the current session, Israel would be putting forward its biennial resolution draft resolution, entitled “Agricultural technology for development”, focusing on nutrition, food security, sustainable agriculture and a number of other issues central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft resolution also focused on cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and building the resilience and capacity of smallholders.

56. Speaking in Arabic, he said that some Arab delegations habitually engaged in unproductive

criticism. The day before, for instance, the representative of Syria had made an incredible and fallacious statement that was very far from the truth. As the Syrian Government was launching barrel explosives against the citizenry, it was time to stop politicizing the deliberations of the Committee, so that the development goals would be attained for all people.

57. **Mr. Nkoloji** (Botswana) said that his delegation would follow with particular interest such issues as poverty eradication, employment, cooperation with middle-income countries, assistance to landlocked developing countries, sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and young people. Landlocked developing countries faced high transport costs in comparison with coastal countries, and their trade volumes continued to be of low value. The economies of most landlocked developing countries were not well diversified and were dependent on agriculture and minerals. The agricultural sector in those countries was also threatened by land degradation, desertification and climate change, the effects of which landlocked developing countries were least able to mitigate. The transformative Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 would help landlocked developing countries to connect to global value chains, thereby reducing poverty and improving their peoples' quality of life.

58. There was a need to find mechanisms to assist middle-income countries in addressing poverty not only through infrastructure development, stronger institutions, technology, skills and social protection floors, but also through greater financing for development targeted at the specific needs of individual middle-income countries, rather than through a “one-size-fits-all” approach. Failure in that area might cause middle-income countries to drop back to the status of least developed countries.

59. The economic impact of climate change on Botswana was real and his delegation hoped that the Paris Climate Change Conference would lead to the adoption of a legally binding agreement. His Government would also continue to call for greater support for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in order to halt the decline in food security resulting from the effects of climate change.

60. **Mr. Minami** (Japan) said that in addition to working for the successful outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference, the international community must address the refugee crisis in the context of ending poverty and hunger, empowering individuals and promoting human rights. The Government Pension Investment Fund, Japan, which was a partner of the Japanese Government and was the largest pension fund in the world, had recently signed the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, demonstrating Japan's commitment to sustainable development. As Japan was committed to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into all areas of the 2030 Agenda, his delegation looked forward to the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development and, together with partners, would introduce a new resolution to designate a World Tsunami Day. Tsunamis had taken the lives of 250,000 people in the previous 11 years and had caused extensive damage to basic infrastructure, hampering sustainable development.

61. The Committee had rightly grown to promote a broad concept of sustainable development, and should collaborate closely with the Third Committee and the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Second Committee would thereby become more relevant, functional and better aligned with the Agenda. The follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and especially the high-level political forum on sustainable development, should function in an integrated and efficient manner. The agreed Technology Facilitation Mechanism should not duplicate work being carried out in other forums, as non-United Nations entities, such as multilateral development banks, regional entities and other partners, were also leading important initiatives. In conclusion, he urged Member States to refrain from reopening or renegotiating outcomes that had been negotiated over the previous three years.

62. **Mr. Mendoza** (Chile) said that the wording of the Sustainable Development Goals was more direct and ambitious than that of the Millennium Development Goals, and their spirit was universal. The dynamic and systemic relationship between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda should be balanced if sustainable outcomes were to be achieved.

63. As confirmed by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, official development assistance still had an important role in financing for development. Countries that had made commitments in that area should therefore devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to development cooperation. The Addis Ababa Agenda also included commitments specific to least developed countries and those commitments should also be fulfilled. However, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would require the mobilization of all resources and the use of all sources of financing. The Second Committee should mainstream the normative content of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda into the 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals in its various resolutions, which should guide Member States, civil society, the United Nations system, the private sector and all relevant actors in the coordinated implementation of the new sustainable development agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

64. During the current session, the Committee would be adopting resolutions on such important issues as poverty eradication and middle-income countries, whose development needs deserved a systemic response from the United Nations system. Furthermore, the resolution on operational activities for development should lay the groundwork for a quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2016, with a view to improving the United Nations development system on the basis of detailed and objective reports on the various development sectors covered by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

65. **Ms. Nguyen** Phuong Nga (Viet Nam) said that the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals reflected the aspiration of the peoples of the world to live in a world of peace, prosperity and justice where development was green and sustainable. Although poverty eradication was the overarching objective of the new agenda, climate change, epidemics and conflicts threatened development gains, most visibly in the recent refugee crisis in the Middle East. Peace and security were prerequisites for an enabling environment for development. Her delegation therefore supported the central role of the United Nations in norm-setting and the coordination of efforts to tackle those global challenges. An adequately resourced and efficient United Nations system was key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

66. Having achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule, her country believed that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require strong political will and the effective mobilization of domestic resources. Sustainable development was a long-term people-centred endeavour and the Sustainable Development Goals should be mainstreamed into the national programmes and strategies of each Member State. In the new global partnership for sustainable development, developed countries should take the lead and support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the developing world, in particular through transfers of technology, capacity-building, trade facilitation and access to financial resources. Her delegation welcomed the recent launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and looked forward to its operationalization. There was much potential for transfers of technology from developed to developing countries and, to a lesser extent, through South-South cooperation. Viet Nam had recently submitted its intended nationally determined contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and hoped that the Paris Climate Change Conference would lead to a universal and ambitious agreement to keep the global average atmospheric temperature increase since pre-industrial times at below 2°.

67. **Mr. Aljamali** (Yemen) said that his delegation welcomed the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was important for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Developed countries should fulfil their pledge to devote 0.7 per cent of gross national product to official development assistance. States subject to special conditions, such as least developed countries, most of whom had failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, should be supported in the area of productive capacity-building in addition to the activation of a technology bank. While the number of persons living in poverty had decreased, most of them lived in rural areas and Governments had failed to find solutions to lift them out of the poverty trap, in particular through the promotion of agricultural development.

68. Although some gains had been achieved within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, many of those gains had been squandered by the armed

conflict and the political instability imposed on the people of Yemen by extremist and terrorist gangs that were the product of ignorance and backwardness. The international community should therefore accord special attention to giving assistance to countries in fragile and conflict situations. Institutional reconstruction was needed in order for those countries and their leadership to look forward to a better tomorrow.

69. Climate change was a major challenge especially for countries that lacked a capacity for adaptation and mitigation. The forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference should therefore secure clear commitments that would help the planet preserve its natural resources and biodiversity, and protect it from the dangers besetting it as a result of environmental deterioration.

70. **Mr. Bishnoi** (India) said that there were three opportunities and three risks inherent in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The opportunities lay in a “retooling” of national systems of implementation, the operational machinery of the United Nations system and its norm-setting deliberative organs such as the Committee; the universality of the Agenda, which would require effective implementation by not only the developing countries, but also the developed countries; and the integration of instruments in the 2030 Agenda in order to achieve its objectives, in particular, Goal 17 and the means of implementation under Goals 8 and 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

71. The risks consisted of the “cherry picking” of specific issues from the Agenda, which could result from a perception of the Agenda as being overly ambitious, as Professor Abhijit Banerjee had cautioned in his keynote address at the opening of the current session of the Committee; the subjective reinterpretation of the Agenda to suit pre-existing notions or preferences, which would be at odds with the indivisible and integrated nature of the Agenda; and the amplified emphasis of the environmental dimension of the Agenda at the cost of the equally relevant economic and social aspects, as had already been seen.

72. India had recently submitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change a very ambitious intended nationally determined contribution, which was in line with the country’s firm belief that, while it had not been part of

the problem, it wanted to be part of the solution. As overall success at the Paris Climate Change Conference would depend on the good-faith efforts of all parties, his delegation was not enthused by the low level of ambition displayed by the developed countries, which would need to take the lead with substantive action toward mitigation, in line with their historical responsibility and greater capacities. They would have to launch their societies and lifestyles on a path of sustainable consumption. A lasting agreement would not be achieved by saddling developing countries with the burden of action or undermining the core principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

73. **Mr. Kim Un Chol** (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) said that it was auspicious that the Sustainable Development Goals had been adopted on the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The Second Committee should seek to guarantee a peaceful environment for Member States to implement the new Agenda successfully. There could be no sustainable development without an end to undemocratic, inhumane and criminal coercive measures which not only violated sovereignty and the right to development of sovereign States but also suffocated peaceful civilian sectors. Certain States had imposed unilateral economic embargoes on individual developing countries on the unjustifiable grounds that their ideology and system were different from their own. Those coercive measures in the areas of finance, trade and investment, and the politicization of humanitarian cooperation had to end before Member States could build their capacity to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in a self-sufficient manner.

74. The implementation of the post-2015 development agenda should contribute to the independent economic policymaking process of Member States. States should be able to determine their own sustainable development priorities, supported by an integrated regional policy framework, and a global partnership process based on the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Rio+20 outcome document entitled “The future we want”, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

75. The implementation of the post-2015 development agenda should focus on establishing a new international economic order, based on justice, in order to abolish domination, subjugation and inequality in international relations. The current unfair international economic system should be reformed to ensure the full representation of developing countries and end the privileged positions of a small number of countries. Developed countries should not place obstacles such as additional burdens and restrictions preventing developing countries from eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable economic growth. Instead, they should fulfil their commitments to provide financial assistance and transfers of technology to developing countries. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should apply to all dimensions of sustainable development.

76. Under the wise guidance of the respected Great Leader Kim Jon Un, the improvement of living standards had become the foremost priority and highest principle of the policies of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was building a powerful economy and a civilized socialist society. Although his country faced challenges such as nuclear threats and an economic embargo imposed by certain States, it had achieved notable economic successes while defending the peace and security of the country by developing the economy and maintaining nuclear deterrence simultaneously. Those successes would be the foundation for sustained economic development and the implementation of the new Agenda.

*The meeting was adjourned at 12.50 p.m.*