



General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
4 November 2015

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 11th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 15 October 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Vice-Chair) (Paraguay)
later: Mr. Logar (Chair)..... (Slovenia)

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In the absence of Mr. Logar (Slovenia), Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence

- (a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/70/326)**
- (b) Science and technology for development (A/70/276)**
- (c) Culture and sustainable development**
- (d) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/70/227)**

1. **Ms. Wu Dong** (Chief, Science and Technology Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) introducing the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development (A/70/276), said that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had concluded that science, technology and innovation had played a critical role in achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but that capacity gaps had often diminished the impact, especially in least developed countries. Attention should be paid to bridging those gaps, and to strengthening the evidence base for policy design, policy coherence and feedback mechanisms.

2. In addressing its priority themes for science, technology and innovation, the Commission had identified five emerging trends: datafication, big data, cloud computing, the Internet of things and smart systems. Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/27 had encouraged the Commission to help articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology, innovation and engineering as enablers in the future post-2015 development agenda. The Commission had forwarded its review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society to the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in December.

3. The report suggested a number of ways to integrate science, technology and innovation into national development plans. Successful policies tended to be grounded in a good understanding of globally available knowledge and technologies as well as

national competencies, culture and identity. Failure to implement a strategy for integrating science, technology and innovation into sectoral development plans could diminish the impact of foreign direct investment (FDI). Efforts to build awareness among policymakers outside the immediate science, technology and innovation community should be redoubled. A strong vision at the very top of the political leadership was essential.

4. During the reporting period, UNCTAD had carried out science, technology and innovation policy reviews for Oman and Thailand, and had launched a policy review for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those reviews had been conducted in close collaboration with the relevant regional commissions and other United Nations entities, and the relevant research was available on the UNCTAD website. Other key events and initiatives highlighted in the report included the creation by the Secretary-General of a scientific advisory board for sustainable development in September 2013; the November 2014 appointment by the Secretary-General of a high-level panel of experts for the proposed technology bank for least developed countries; and the September 2015 launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

5. **Mr. Theunissen** (Deputy Chief, Programme Coordination Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/70/326), said that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda would depend on support from a revitalized global partnership, more even distribution of the benefits of globalization and enhanced global stability and resilience.

6. The report outlined the opportunities and challenges presented by globalization and interdependence to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. The economic growth fostered by globalization had been uneven. Trade had slowed relative to global output, and volatile global financial markets had made sovereign borrowing riskier and debt harder to sustain. Mobile and digital technologies, while yielding many benefits, had tended to reinforce pre-existing inequalities, and transnational cybercrime had the potential to inflict major economic damage. Labour markets had suffered

from the global financial crisis, unemployment remained high, and wages continued to stagnate. Ensuring that no one was left behind would require social protection, productive and decent work, and protection of the rights of workers, as well as measures to address labour migration and health pandemics. While an expanding global middle class was welcome news, it would be important to encourage new patterns of consumption and production to mitigate the environmental impacts of improved standards of living.

7. Challenges to the three dimensions of sustainable development were interlinked, and policy integration and coherence would be essential in addressing them. The report outlined ways to increase policy coherence at the national and international levels, strengthen multilateral cooperation, increase integration at the regional level, revitalize the global partnership for development, and adapt the United Nations development system to the new global realities. It also included recommendations for ensuring that globalization and interdependence served as enablers of the 2030 Agenda rather than hindrances. The commitments contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development were a timely contribution to mobilizing means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda through the revitalized global partnership. The international community should also assist Governments in building resilience to negative global trends and strengthening their capacity to follow up and review implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including with respect to policy integration for sustainable development.

8. **Mr. Kempf** (Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/70/227), said that while economic growth in middle-income countries had outpaced the global average since the previous report in 2013, it had begun to show signs of slowing, particularly outside of Asia, owing to lower commodity prices, declining investment, geopolitical tensions and domestic policy weaknesses. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth per capita had slowed and fewer jobs were being generated. That cyclical slowdown exacerbated already existing structural weaknesses such as high youth unemployment, gender gaps and sizeable informal

sectors. The macroeconomic picture posed threats to development gains. Despite the dramatic overall reduction in poverty, some countries — in particular those that were resource-dependent — had seen declines in incomes and increases in poverty. Where growth had occurred, it was often accompanied by rising greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation that threatened long-term sustainability. Effective policymaking started with a good empirical foundation. In that connection, the report contained a number of country case studies that yielded valuable lessons.

9. The report also provided an assessment of the major achievements of the United Nations system, outlining cooperation activities by agency and including the activities of the international financial institutions. Survey data from middle-income countries indicated that the United Nations had made significant contributions in the areas of gender equality, governance and public administration, health, environment and natural resources, and sustainable development policies. The Governments surveyed had also indicated the areas in which they believed they would be most in need of assistance in the near future. Those areas included environment and natural resources, sustainable development policies, poverty reduction, governance and public administration, and health.

10. The report contained a number of conclusions and recommendations on enhancing policy coherence. The international community needed to maintain its engagement with countries that had seen a reduction in official development assistance (ODA) when they graduated from low-income to middle-income status. Countries at risk of falling into the middle-income trap should avoid the temptation to accelerate growth through traditional industries with high carbon emissions. With international help, new environmentally sustainable industries could even provide new competitive advantages. As the focus of United Nations system activity shifted from direct development assistance to policy advice and knowledge transfer, United Nations agencies in the field should make every effort to adhere to a clear division of duties in line with the "Delivering as one" approach. Going beyond a country classification based solely on per capita income could help to provide more specifically targeted assistance.

11. **Ms. Baleni** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that now that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda had been adopted, the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence had become all the more important. Nevertheless, the benefits of globalization continued to be uneven and unpredictable for developing countries.

12. The Group acknowledged the importance of enhanced North-South, South-South, and triangular, regional and international cooperation on access to science and environmentally sound technologies, and of operationalizing science and technology partnerships in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations should provide leadership in science and technology for development. The Group considered the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism to be one of the most significant decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

13. Culture was an essential component of human development. The 2030 Agenda stressed the need for intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility. Cultural activities had the potential to provide decent work opportunities, help grow economies, and promote sustained economic growth.

14. Development cooperation strategies for middle-income countries should address those countries' diverse and specific development needs. Development measures based on such criteria as per capita income did not usually reflect particularities and specific challenges.

15. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations would continue to be the central player in norm-setting and global policy integration. It was therefore essential for the United Nations to strengthen its coordination and cooperation arrangements with regional organizations. The 2011 Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations had given rise to cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN on a host of economic, social and environmental initiatives.

16. In 2014, the rate of GDP growth in ASEAN economies had been higher than that of the global economy as a whole. Investment inflows had increased by more than 15 per cent since 2013, while trade had remained stable in 2014. The positive figures were the result of strong macroeconomic fundamentals, economic integration measures, and development of the kind of regional markets that the Secretary-General had identified as central to boosting growth in his report on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence. Achievements had also been made in trade facilitation, standards and conformance, investment, financial services, tourism, competition law and policy, infrastructure, and small and medium enterprises.

17. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community had strengthened multisectoral coordination on disaster management, migrant workers, climate change, pandemics and natural disasters. The ASEAN Community Vision 2025 initiative was rooted in the principles of social responsibility, equitable access to opportunities, human rights, balanced social development, environmental sustainability, and continuous adaptation and innovation. The September 2015 meeting between ASEAN foreign ministers and the Secretary-General had reaffirmed the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, and recognized the complementarity between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 initiative and the 2030 Agenda.

18. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the while globalization had yielded many benefits, the reality for people in the least developed countries was that they were often unable to cope without international help. It was true that one third of the least developed countries had seen some progress on poverty eradication, sanitation and education. However, for the other two thirds, the MDGs were an unfinished agenda. The least developed countries did not need lip service and advocacy. They needed resources and technology. The developed countries should heed the recommendation in the Secretary-General's report on globalization and interdependence to ratify and implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO). That same report also pointed out that the youth population of least developed countries was projected

to increase by a third over the next 15 years. The guidelines on migration set out in the 2030 Agenda would be crucial for providing those young people with opportunities to find employment globally.

19. The least developed countries appreciated the Secretary-General's recognition, in his report on science and technology for development, of the need to bridge the technology gap. Other reports by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD had also noted that the least developed countries were lagging behind in science, technology and innovation. He looked forward to operationalization of the proposed technology bank for least developed countries in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the recommendations of the feasibility study conducted by the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. Concrete support mechanisms for scientific and technological advancement in the least developed countries should be put in place ahead of the midterm review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), to be held in Turkey in 2016. A quarter of the States Members of the United Nations were least developed countries, and they were at risk of being left behind if they were not helped to merge onto the global technology highway.

20. **Mr. Shcherbakov** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda required a framework that was universally applicable while taking into account differing national realities. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should set forth guidelines for greater coherence and consistency within the United Nations development system.

21. Technology was the linchpin for promoting sustainable development. The three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism were the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals; the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals; and the online platform. Speedy implementation of all three was of particular interest to small island developing States, whose limited capacities and

diseconomies of scale were major hindrances to accessing needed technologies.

22. CELAC also attached great importance to the 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in December. Thus far, the Geneva and Tunis phases had not been followed up with the determination necessary to realize the full potential of information and communications technologies (ICT) as a catalyst for achieving the goals of poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. In particular, as a Community consisting mostly of middle-income countries, CELAC hoped that the 10-year review would take into account the specific challenges of middle-income countries.

23. The Latin American and Caribbean countries were multi-ethnic, multicultural and multilingual. CELAC underlined the role of culture as a driving force for sustainable development and a pillar of poverty eradication and social equality. With a view to safeguarding traditional knowledge, the Governments of CELAC States would continue to combat illicit trafficking in the cultural property of their region. CELAC supported the establishment of a comprehensive action plan of cooperation with middle-income countries. Since over two thirds of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries, engagement with those countries by the United Nations development system was necessary to ensure that no one was left behind. Attention to the needs of middle-income countries was highlighted in the 2030 Agenda.

24. **Mr. Dapkiunas** (Belarus) said that middle-income countries accounted for a majority of the world's population, over a third of global GDP and a quarter of global exports and imports. While the majority of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries, the experience of those countries showed that solutions existed to the problem of poverty. Their continued progress in that area would be a measure of the success of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

25. While Belarus had a comparatively low level of income inequality, the level of internal inequality in most middle-income countries was a far more serious problem than in the other such categories of countries. Other challenges facing middle-income countries included their vulnerability to external factors, urbanization, employment, the environment and sovereign debt.

26. Since the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries, held in Costa Rica in 2013, Belarus had hosted two international events on that topic, including a conference held jointly with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in April 2015 on industrial development in middle-income countries.

27. There was no single approach for providing comprehensive assistance to middle-income countries within the United Nations system. Unfortunately, the Organization's engagement with those countries remained piecemeal and lacked coherence within a system-wide approach. Resource allocation for programme activities was not always readily predictable and often depended on work with donors rather than on core resources.

28. Given that the challenges and responsibilities facing middle-income countries were growing significantly, the 2030 Agenda would require a different level of interaction within the United Nations system on such issues as technical, financial and intellectual resources. Moreover, progress on sustainable development in middle-income countries would be hampered without clear planning and cooperation within the United Nations development system.

29. The development of a comprehensive United Nations plan of action for cooperation with middle-income countries could resolve many of the aforementioned problems. As a minimum, inter-agency coordination must be strengthened and clear guidelines drawn up on how the United Nations system should interact with such a diverse group of countries. Other ideas included the need for regular joint work among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for the coordination of programme activities in middle-income countries. Over three years ago, the executive boards of those agencies had held a joint meeting to discuss such issues. It would be worthwhile resuming that practice, in the light of the new sustainable development agenda.

30. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Mexico) said that cooperation for development was essential in an interdependent and globalized world, even if each State was responsible for its own sustainable development process. Scientific progress and the dissemination of technology were necessary for eradicating poverty and inequality; ICTs could be used to close the digital

divide while respecting the three pillars of sustainable development. The information society meant a more open, pluralistic, decentralized, transparent and consequently, more egalitarian and democratic society.

31. His delegation supported the views of the Group of Friends of Culture and Development chaired by Peru and welcomed the recognition in the 2030 Agenda of culture as a driver of sustainable development, as well as its contributions to the social, economic and environmental dimensions. The cross-cutting importance of culture for development was highlighted throughout the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

32. Developed countries and international organizations must expand cooperation with middle-income countries, which included a large portion of the world population living in extreme poverty and faced significant development challenges, owing, in particular, to high levels of inequality. While many middle-income countries had the potential to achieve the same development levels as industrialized nations, many others were at risk of sliding back into low-income country status, especially given their extreme vulnerability to external shock and economic crises. The 2008 financial crisis had exposed the fragility of middle-income countries in dealing with external variables; building their resilience capacities should be a key element of a globalized and interdependent development strategy aimed at achieving long-term sustained growth.

33. The international community, especially traditional donor countries, must reflect on the criteria used to classify middle-income countries. Per capita income was not a sufficient indicator of inequality within countries, and numerical averages in general did not illustrate the complex challenges facing middle-income countries, especially with regard to inequality in terms of income, opportunity and access to services. The current classification of middle-income countries did not reflect the huge differences among them: nations at the top of the classification bracket had little in common with those at the bottom, both in terms of the challenges they faced and the resources available to address them. Graduation from middle-income status was also arbitrary, as a difference of a few dollars did not mean that development challenges had disappeared.

34. The debate surrounding middle-income status acquired even greater importance when taking into

account its relevance for the distribution of international development cooperation resources. Although low-income countries must remain the international community's priority, it should not be forgotten that the majority of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries. The use of income as a primary classification criterion had a significant impact not only on the amount of aid received, but also on the degree of concessionality associated with it. Latin America had witnessed a gradual decrease in resources, receiving only 7 per cent of total ODA in 2009. It was therefore necessary to rethink middle-income classification criteria, as they did not reflect the reality of development.

35. The type of assistance required by middle-income countries varied as greatly as the countries themselves. Although for many middle-income countries, ODA flows were still crucial, for others, including upper-middle-income countries, emphasis should be placed on capacity-building in the areas of public policy, knowledge exchange and best practices. Assistance to such countries should focus on poverty eradication, improving governance, reducing social and economic inequality and vulnerability to external shocks, and technology transfer to fight climate change. Cooperation with middle-income countries could also have a multiplier effect on South-South and triangular cooperation with relatively less developed countries. Mexico's vision was to integrate the various cooperation actors and modalities and strengthen their synergies and comparative advantages to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

36. **Ms. Seah** (Singapore) said that in the current interdependent world, poor management of global integration would risk marginalizing whole economies and millions in the developing world. Managed wisely, however, globalization would lift millions out of poverty and pave the way to a just and inclusive global economy.

37. As a resource-scarce city-State without a natural hinterland or a large domestic market to generate sufficient jobs and economic sustainability, Singapore's long-term survival hinged on its integration into the global economy. Embracing globalization, her country had demonstrated that domestic stability, rule of law, transparency, accountability and market-oriented policies were needed to provide the necessary climate and infrastructure for investment and trade vital to a strong, competitive economy.

38. Globalization had also made the world smaller, however, with events in one country affecting many others. Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Jihadist terrorists were a serious problem, threatening Singapore's physical safety and racial harmony. As a small cosmopolitan city-State, Singapore was also at risk of losing its sense of national identity and its social cohesion. Her country had therefore made special efforts to forge stronger bonds between Singapore's different religious and ethnic communities.

39. While fast-changing technologies would create new opportunities for some in a globalized world, they could also heighten volatility, displace jobs, accentuate inequality and fracture social cohesion and identity. Singapore had refused to isolate itself and had on the contrary worked to remain ahead of the technological revolution. The country was currently harnessing ICTs with a view to creating a Smart Nation, where people lived inclusive, meaningful lives enabled seamlessly by technology and with opportunities for all. To that end, her country was putting in place the necessary physical infrastructure for national broadband; strengthening its education system to increase IT literacy; and creating an environment conducive to the fast development of ideas and access to markets.

40. While much responsibility lay at the national level, globalization and economic integration had stressed the urgent need to redefine global governance and decision-making. The United Nations must remain the cornerstone of global governance, and, with other international organizations, must ensure that the global economic framework remained conducive to growth. However, global governance must also adapt to the new environment and challenges by giving developing countries a greater voice. The United Nations system, in consultation with developing countries, should implement coordinated programmes to build capacity and foster an enabling environment for developing countries to plug into the global economy and reap the benefits of globalization and the knowledge revolution.

41. *Mr. Logar (Slovenia) took the Chair.*

42. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines) said that although middle-income countries like the Philippines had achieved robust economic expansion during the past decade and made notable progress towards meeting the MDG targets, they still faced significant development challenges. Over the past five years, the Philippine economy had become one of the fastest growing

economies among the major emerging economies in Asia. However, poverty had risen by 25.8 per cent in 2014 due to food price inflation, particularly rice, and 23.82 million people were slipping back into poverty. That clearly illustrated that middle-income countries were not free from challenges just because they had passed an arbitrary threshold. As 73 per cent of the world's poorest people lived in middle-income countries, eradicating poverty in all its dimensions would require complementing the mobilization of domestic resources with ODA, capacity-building, technical assistance, private sector participation and increased resiliency.

43. The 2030 Agenda issued a mandate to address the specific challenges of middle-income countries. The international community should recognize the heterogeneity of size, development experience, and economic and social achievements of that large group. Just as a broad base of middle-income households enabled economic and social growth as well as development in a society, the ability of middle-income countries to sustain their respective growth and development would lend socioeconomic stability and plurality to the international community.

44. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African States should be given priority for more targeted and coordinated international assistance. Global partnership could only be genuinely enhanced once silos were brought down and development was understood as a spectrum.

45. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/70/326). The international community should focus its efforts on further strengthening the international financial architecture, improving the sovereign debt restructuring process, and building an open, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system based on the rules of the World Trade Organization. Without real movement in that direction, most countries in the world would not enjoy the fruits of globalization.

46. The delay in ratifying the 2010 International Monetary Fund (IMF) quota and governance reform package undermined trust in IMF, its legitimacy and

effectiveness. His delegation therefore called for the immediate continuation of the reform process as part of the Fifteenth General Review of Quotas.

47. The Russian Federation supported the adoption of basic principles on sovereign debt restructuring at the current session and called on all Group of 20 (G-20) countries and international financial institutions to continue working towards guaranteeing a timely and organized restructuring process.

48. His delegation, which attached great importance to the forthcoming Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Nairobi from 15 to 18 December, was convinced that the practice of concluding bilateral regional and multilateral trade agreements served to strengthen rather than erode the multilateral trading system. It called on all parties to the negotiations to observe the principles of openness, transparency and compatibility with WTO rules, as had been the case with the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union.

49. Further regional integration and an expanded network of development banks would strengthen the synergies of the fastest-growing economies of the world while improving financial stability and investment activity, particularly in such sectors as infrastructure, science and technology.

50. Welcoming that fact that the 2030 Agenda included the development of science and technology and access to their achievements, his delegation called on all stakeholders, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to help establish a new culture of cooperation in that area with a particular focus on the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally safe technologies and on sustainable development-based scientific and educational research at universities.

51. Lastly, given that middle-income countries were a heterogeneous group, his delegation called on the United Nations system to take into account their individual particularities when drawing up projects and implementing new initiatives for them. It also noted the donor potential of the most advanced middle-income countries in implementing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

52. **Mr. Rodrigues dos Santos** (Brazil) said that while globalization had had a huge social, economic and environmental impact, its benefits had been

unevenly distributed. By integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development, the Sustainable Development Goals were underpinned by the view that market forces could not independently provide all the solutions to the world's challenges, the most important being poverty eradication. The United Nations must be at the forefront of a more integrated, inclusive and sustainable vision for globalization and provide guidance on challenges posed by growing inequality and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. To that end, the international community, through the United Nations, must work in a coordinated manner, based on the principles of sovereign equality, equity, cooperation and solidarity among all States. It was time to entrust developing countries with greater power and representation in global institutions and strengthen collective efforts to harness globalization for the purpose of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development.

53. Culture was a cross-cutting element of the 2030 Agenda, enabling environmental sustainability at various levels: through the links between cultural diversity and biodiversity; through its influence on unsustainable consumption patterns; and through its contribution to sustainable environmental management practices as a result of upscaling and mainstreaming local and traditional knowledge systems. His delegation commended the role of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in mainstreaming respect for cultural diversity. It also supported the views of the Group of Friends of Culture and Development.

54. The establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism was an innovative undertaking that would allow Member States and relevant stakeholders to harness the potential of science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation expressed support for the Mechanism and looked forward to the Secretary-General's appointment of the 10-member board that would launch preparations for the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation and the establishment of the online platform. Taking into account the relevance of that initiative and political sensitivities concerning intellectual property rights, it encouraged the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda to continue working

with diligence and transparency, keeping Member States well informed of upcoming action.

55. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Ukraine) said that Member States and United Nations bodies must collaborate to achieve results-oriented efficiency, including in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on science and technology. His delegation supported the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the promotion of international cooperation in science, technology and innovation through partnerships between different stakeholders, as well as close North-South interaction, including through the use of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country offices in relevant regions.

56. Global and bilateral science, technology and innovation collaborations had strengthened research, education and vocational training in developing countries, including small island developing States and the least developed countries. Despite its challenging environment, Ukraine strove to be part of the universal process by sharing its best practices, expertise and technological innovations with international partners. Under the Platforms for Partnership programme, Ukrainian science park experts had recently presented innovative water, energy and cyber technologies and solutions for the countries of the global South and least developed countries in Africa.

57. National technological capacities must be increased through education and training, including international and government support in the form of scientific scholarships, training and research and development grants. His country had therefore allocated 200 stipends and scholarships at its leading engineering schools to students from small island developing States and least developed countries.

58. **Mr. Mebarki** (Algeria) said that his delegation was concerned by the negative effects of globalization, in particular commodity price and exchange rate volatility, food insecurity, volatile energy prices, and the challenges posed by climate change. Macroeconomic and financial system stability was critical for sustained, inclusive development. The global economic and financial system should adopt a mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring and resolution. In view of the significant financial resources required for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the international community should

promote enabling domestic and international conditions for sustainable private sector investment in support of national development policies. As ODA remained important to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the right to development, his delegation called on developed countries to fulfil their commitments. Moreover, social protections, social security and minimum wage policies and the creation of opportunities for decent work would be necessary to mitigate the negative effects of computerization and offshoring on labour markets.

59. The current global architecture would promote international cooperation, and the exchange of best practice. In particular, the high-level political forum on sustainable development would play an important role in the successful implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda by reviewing processes at the global level and working with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums. As the only global body with universal membership, the United Nations was well positioned to strengthen development cooperation in the context of globalization. Reform of the General Assembly should allow it to recover its role as the primary deliberative body of the United Nations, especially with regard to global economic and social development policies. It was more important than ever to reform the governance structure of the Bretton Woods institutions by engaging with all stakeholders in an equitable, transparent, consultative and inclusive manner. His delegation supported a new international economic order based on the principles of equity, interdependence, equal sovereignty, cooperation and solidarity among States and called for greater participation by developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting.

60. **Mr. Grima** (Malta) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda had set a new paradigm for sustainable development that was applicable to all countries. Over the years, the United Nations had contributed to global peace, disease eradication, and the promotion of justice, freedom and human rights. However, the world had changed in past decades with regard to the nature and magnitude of the challenges faced and countries' respective capacities to address them: global solutions were necessary.

61. In order to secure a sustainable world, the international community must take a critical look at the underlying systems replicating inequalities on a global

scale and instead champion social, economic and political inclusion as well as peace from a rights-based perspective. It was impossible to talk about progress, however, without talking about the women, girls and gender minorities who continued to face numerous inequalities on a daily basis. His delegation urged Governments to mainstream a gender perspective in legislation, policies and programmes. In addition, it recalled the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including ICTs, could play in facilitating efforts to address global challenges and achieve internationally agreed development goals. His delegation believed that the universal mandate of the 2030 Agenda could not be achieved unless women and girls were given ample opportunities to excel in the fields of science, technology, economics, health, policy and political science. It would therefore introduce a draft resolution proposing an International Day of Women in Science to bring public attention to the issue.

62. **Ms. Yaima de Armas** (Cuba) said that the world required a transparent, multilateral and inclusive system that ensured that all Member States would share in the benefits of globalization. The role of the General Assembly should be strengthened as the most representative and democratic body of the United Nations. Respect for each country's national circumstances and priorities, and for diversity and national sovereignty in choosing development models, was indispensable for maintaining the legitimacy of the United Nations.

63. Rapid globalization had engendered major advances in science, technology and innovation. However, as development gaps separating the global North and South continued to grow, South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation must be strengthened. Developing countries must acquire technological sovereignty and gain adequate and preferential access to environmentally friendly technologies. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism, technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries would be indispensable in that regard.

64. As cultural diversity was an important factor for social inclusion, sustainable development and poverty eradication, the United Nations system must strengthen policies and actions in the cultural sector with

guidance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

65. While the efforts of middle-income countries to eradicate poverty were to be celebrated, those countries now faced a number of structural and development challenges that prevented them from achieving further progress. Using income to classify countries was a limited approach, as it did not address structural problems. Although countries in special situations, such as least developed countries and small island developing States, had the greatest need for development resources, middle-income countries should not be excluded or discriminated against in terms of development aid. Her delegation strongly opposed income-based aid, due to its negative effects on middle-income countries which prevented them from achieving their national development goals and international commitments. Instead, measures should go beyond per capita income and gross national product (GNP), taking into account the special challenges and circumstances of middle-income countries.

66. Within the larger context of globalization, Cuba continued to fight for its development under unique circumstances: despite the reopening of diplomatic relations with the United States, the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba was still in effect. The embargo prevented Cuba from having normal relations with international financial institutions and foreign companies, including American companies, which were afraid of being sanctioned by the United States Department of the Treasury. Despite those constraints, her country would continue to make progress and in a spirit of solidarity, would never cease to support the development of other countries.

67. **Mr. Narang** (India) said that globalization had brought an unprecedented mobility of goods, services, capital, labour, technology and ideas, spurring growth and creating wealth in the process; at the same time, it had engendered a high degree of instability and insecurity, and its costs and benefits had been unevenly distributed across the world. The action-oriented Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda were a lofty attempt to manage globalization through collective action, by moving from quick fixes to long-term solutions, from limited interventions to broad-based programmes, and from symptoms to root causes. By respecting developmental diversity and different national circumstances, the 2030 Agenda also correctly

avoided a one-size-fits-all approach and affirmed the principle of differentiation based on historical responsibilities with respect to managing the global commons. The Agenda's success would be gauged by the international community's ability to strengthen and revitalize the global partnership and create an enabling environment for developing countries.

68. To ensure that globalization was a positive force for sustainable development, multilateralism should be strengthened through open, democratic and participatory global governance structures. Unfavourable and iniquitous international regimes in which developing countries had a marginal say continued to prevent such countries from fully benefiting from globalization. In the context of the new Agenda, unequal power structures and outdated models of governance must be urgently reformed — including the Security Council, which was the most grotesque example of the global power oligopoly. Unfortunately, even modest proposals for incremental reforms of international financial institutions and international tax cooperation for development had remained buried under selective legislative obscurantism or been voted down. And the United Nations development system continued to be dominated by donors. Inclusiveness and the rule of law demanded that developing countries were afforded an equal place at the table.

69. A culture-sensitive approach that embraced differences, celebrated diversity and promoted mutual respect was a fundamental premise of successful globalization. The flow of ideas must not be one-way. With its multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multicultural and multilingual social ethos and a pluralistic, democratic polity, India could usefully enrich the global discourse, in particular through its ethos of living in harmony and dialogue with nature and its culture of frugality.

70. **Ms. Almansoor** (Bahrain) said that even with 90 per cent of the world's population using mobile phones and nearly half of all households connected to the Internet, the digital divide persisted. In particular, the least developed countries had been unable to reap the full benefits of the information society. Her country took a special interest in science and technology for development. It had expanded its e-government services over the past decade and a half, in recognition of which its Prime Minister had been awarded the International Telecommunications Union's ICT in Sustainable Development Award in September 2015. Bahrain had been ranked eighteenth worldwide on the

2014 United Nations E-Government Survey's e-government development index, and was the only Arab country in the "very high" category.

71. **Mr. Oumiya** (Morocco) said that while globalization had engendered great economic progress, it had also exacerbated inequalities within and between countries and created new sources of tension, which had been highlighted by the most recent financial and economic crisis. However, the crisis had also revealed the shortcomings of the existing global governance structure, the uneven distribution of the benefits of globalization and the need for united international action. In order to restore confidence in the global economy, it was necessary to promote transparency and healthy market regulation that insulated the financial system against speculative excesses, reform the international financial institutions, and strengthen macroprudential policies. Rather than preventing crises, protectionist measures stunted global growth. Instead, an open, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory, rules-based multilateral trading system must take into account the special needs of developing countries and especially least developed countries. To that end, he called for the conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

72. A number of significant challenges such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, pandemics and food crises had revealed the urgent need for an integrated and coherent global vision at both the regional and international levels that brought together States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society. Sound economic management required institutional reform to ensure that decision-making processes were more democratic, more equitable, more representative and truly multilateral.

73. The 2030 Agenda, with its overarching goals of eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development, ensuring peace and security and protecting the planet, was a unique road map for meeting those challenges. No effort should be spared to implement it. Reliable financing mechanisms, including through new sources, domestic resource mobilization, fundraising, private sector contributions, foreign direct investment and improved infrastructure would be crucial to that end.

74. Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals on a revitalized global partnership provided an opportunity to put a human face on globalization by

stressing solidarity between developed and developing nations. The United Nations system, together with the Bretton Woods institutions, had an indispensable role to play in defining a balance among the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.

75. **Mr. Castro Cordoba** (Costa Rica), referring to General Assembly resolution 68/223 on culture and sustainable development, said that culture would play a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, the Sustainable Development Goals on quality education, responsible consumption and production, and peaceful and inclusive societies. The role of UNESCO in coordinating and promoting such efforts should be strengthened.

76. His country was committed to cooperating with middle-income countries within the framework of the United Nations system but was concerned at the lack of a specific action plan for that purpose. It was not logical for middle-income classification to be determined merely by per capita income; the metric should also recognize different development levels and the multidimensional nature of poverty. The achievement of sustainable development should leave no one behind and generate systemic effects without causing conflict between groups of countries. Bolstered by the assistance they needed to overcome structural gaps in inequality infrastructure, technology access, trade and sovereign debt, middle-income countries could play a central role in the exchange of best practices. South-South and triangular cooperation should also be strengthened with a view to improving institutional capacity-building and generating multiplier effects.

77. It was also necessary to address the problems faced by recent graduates to middle-income status: such countries were often inadvertently punished for their national efforts by a decrease in international aid. His delegation was concerned that the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 68/222 had not been fulfilled, and that the current report of the Secretary-General lacked concrete recommendations for better coordination by the United Nations development system in cooperating with middle-income countries. As it would be impossible to achieve the 2030 Agenda without addressing the social, economic and environmental problems of middle-income countries, the United Nations must make progress towards formulating an action plan for middle-income countries and establishing the high-level panel or ad hoc working

group referred to in the Secretary-General's previous report (A/68/265, para. 66).

78. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that it was important to make globalization a positive force that facilitated the implementation of the new development agenda, created jobs and promoted economic growth. By addressing systemic challenges through multilateralism, the international community could promote a fair and equitable global economic architecture that left no country or person behind. Globalization should be a catalyst for a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development; continuous adaptation of the United Nations system would improve its global coordination role.

79. Although science and technology had had a critical role in the execution of the MDGs, their potential had not been fully utilized. It was imperative to harness science and technology during the transition from the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals, in part by implementing appropriate national policies through a multi-stakeholder approach. Science and technology were essential to facilitate poverty eradication and accelerate structural transformation. His country's development plan included a science and technology pillar with a view to enhancing productivity as well as competitiveness in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Through a series of national programmes and policies, Ethiopia was mainstreaming science and technology and promoting research, with a view to solving practical, local problems. Its budget for scientific research was increasing and two of its universities had been requested to focus on science, technology and engineering. Ethiopia faced challenges in fully utilizing science and technology to meet its developmental targets; in that regard, international cooperation, aligned with national demands, should be further strengthened. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda were important frameworks for addressing the persistent digital divide and uneven innovative capacity, connectivity and access to technology within and between countries. His delegation underscored the importance of implementing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and fully operationalizing the technology bank for least developed countries.

80. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that middle-income countries comprised a very broad category of countries at different levels of development. While many had achieved impressive rates of economic growth and

significant progress in the implementation of the MDGs, many middle-income countries continued to face major challenges concerning sustainable development, including poverty, lack of access to health services, safe drinking water and sanitation, and high unemployment, especially among youth. Middle-income countries were home to over 70 per cent of the world's extremely poor and were wrestling with high levels of inequality. In reality, the broad classification of that group of countries masked pockets of poverty and serious gaps in overall progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation therefore supported the development of a comprehensive strategic framework for development cooperation with middle-income countries, including a refined classification system and an indicator that went beyond merely measuring wealth by gross national income per capita.

81. **Mr. Eshanta** (Libya) said that information technology had contributed to lifting millions of people around the world out of poverty. Nevertheless, developing countries were in need of financing, training and capacity-building in order to reap the full benefits of science, technology and innovation. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism would be a crucial tool for harnessing technology in the service of sustainable growth.

82. Culture also had an important contribution to make to development. It was a force for economic growth, social solidarity and mutual understanding between local societies. His delegation affirmed the need to respect national sovereignty and the religious, ethical and cultural values of all States.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.