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Chair: Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Vice-Chair) (Paraguay)

Contents

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

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

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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 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence
(continued)

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

1. **Mr. González Flores** (Paraguay) said that the work of the Second Committee should continue to stimulate dialogue and cooperation among nations. Respect for diversity, multilingualism, tolerance and justice were key to building a culture of peace. Accordingly, his delegation supported the preservation of traditional knowledge and the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural assets. It also supported a multidimensional approach to development with special consideration for the needs of landlocked developing countries. The eradication of poverty required the technology gap between nations to be reduced within the framework of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a landlocked developing country, Paraguay needed to prioritize science and technology as a means to improve transit, build infrastructure, increase trade and drive economic transformation in cooperation with transit countries and other development partners.

2. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that although globalization had offered opportunities and challenges for all countries, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries were in a more vulnerable position, which was attributable to the increasingly competitive environment created by globalization. While the United Nations was making welcome efforts to more equitably distribute both the costs and the benefits of globalization, more work needed to be done. The thirteenth session of the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development had highlighted the role of globalization in inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Nepal placed high importance on the effective and timely implementation of such initiatives as the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, in order to ensure the overall success of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. His delegation also looked forward to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to a binding agreement being reached based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

3. Migration and other forms of globalization had played an increasingly important role in supplying the human resources required for progress and prosperity in developed economies, while the countries from which those workers originated suffered social and cultural costs and continued to lack resources for their own development. The basic human rights of those migrant workers must be protected and, to that end, his country supported initiatives to define the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination; it was also actively involved in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, which were enhancing connectivity and deepening economic integration.

4. Information and communications technologies (ICTs), which were game-changers of development and facilitators of globalization, required continuous updates in order to be employed effectively in combating cybercrime and international and cross-border organized crime networks. By helping to reduce poverty and bridge the digital divide, ICTs could also serve to empower billions of people.

5. Special support and facilitation measures in the context of globalization included: a technology bank dedicated to the least developed countries; enhanced trade facilitation mechanisms; scaled-up investment; financial justice with regard to foreign employment; and the fulfilment of ODA commitments. The fruits of globalization should be equitably shared, including through global policy forums such as the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Globalization should give rise to win-win

cooperation and revitalized partnerships for all countries, as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda.

6. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that globalization should become a positive force for all the world's people. Global systems could produce great prosperity but the benefits and costs were unevenly shared and development patterns were frequently unsustainable. Current global trends and crises threatened to deny generations to come a sustainable future. Issues such as inequality within and between countries, the global food, energy, economic and financial crises and climate change would affect the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The development challenges facing small island developing States in the Caribbean were exacerbated by the current globalized environment, characterized by slower economic growth, unemployment, poverty, inequality and a failure to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the areas of health care; gender equality; environmental sustainability; vulnerability to natural hazards; and risks arising from climate change and rising sea levels. At the same time, those States faced a shortage of investable resources; limited fiscal capacity; decreasing access to foreign direct investment and official development assistance (ODA); and in some cases unsustainable levels of public debt, which hampered the delivery of social services.

7. CARICOM member States had called, with some success, for their concerns to be integrated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Growth would require fiscal and monetary harmonization and structural reforms to stimulate investment and employment while improving infrastructure and transparency. The success of the new Sustainable Development Goals and targets would require comprehensive sustainable development strategies supported by an enabling international environment for policy integration to minimize contradictions.

8. A key provision of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The high-level political forum on sustainable development should promote accountability, foster international cooperation and advance the exchange of best practices while working with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant United Nations bodies. A revitalized global partnership would be needed to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and

targets, and to mobilize support for an enabling environment for development based on the principles of solidarity, equality, national ownership, self-determination, mutual respect and global responsibility.

9. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of Culture and Development, said that the Group welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and that all cultures and civilizations could contribute to, and were crucial enablers of, sustainable development. General Assembly resolution 68/223 had highlighted that important role of culture, including its contributions to the economic, social and cultural dimensions of sustainable development. The Group welcomed in particular the inclusion in the Agenda of several targets that reflected the cross-cutting nature of culture, and recalled that the international community had emphasized the contribution of culture to national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals. In that regard, the Group would work to further integrate culture into the three dimensions of sustainable development. It looked forward to a General Assembly resolution focusing on global follow-up to the implementation of those targets and on operationalizing a thematic review of progress, to be considered by all relevant stakeholders at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

10. The Group called on the Committee to build on the General Assembly's agenda sub-item on culture and sustainable development, in order to align it with the 2030 Agenda and to follow up on and support its implementation in an action-oriented manner. In particular, the Group looked forward to reviewing progress in accordance with the following interlinked areas of the Sustainable Development Goals: target 11.4 on strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage; targets 8.3 and 8.9 on promoting development-oriented policies that supported productive activities; target 12.b on developing and implementing tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism; target 4.7 on ensuring that all learners acquired the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development; and target 2.5 on promoting access to, and fair and equitable sharing of, benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

11. The Group looked forward to a global indicator framework being developed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, to be agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission by March 2016, and adopted thereafter by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

12. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) said that developing countries continued to be marginalized and faced rising poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. The benefits of globalization must be shared fairly among all countries and should help lift people in developing countries out of poverty and improve their living standards. International cooperation was essential to help those countries adapt to changes brought about by globalization. They must have stronger voices, representation and participation in international economic decision-making and norm-setting forums. Accordingly, the United Nations should advocate for the urgently needed reform and democratization of the international financial and trade architecture, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO.

13. His delegation noted with great concern that developing countries were losing their policy space as a result of globalization, and stressed the importance of ensuring that those countries were able to pursue policies on the basis of their unique social, political, economic and environmental conditions. They should not be forced either to abandon domestic programmes and policies providing essential social services to their populations, or to embrace ideological models of development which had no proven record of success. Poverty and inequality had been amplified by the structural adjustment programmes prescribed by the Bretton Woods institutions, which had focused exclusively on expenditure reduction and economic liberalism.

14. Science and technology played a central role in sustainable development, as highlighted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and his delegation hoped that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism would support technology development, transfer and dissemination for developing countries in the context of the 2030 Agenda. His country was committed to working towards a science- and technology-driven economy in order to address pressing development challenges. To that end, a new policy was currently being implemented which promoted science, technology and mathematics

education at the primary and secondary levels. The policy would ultimately serve to develop highly skilled personnel appropriate for the specialized needs of the country. At the same time, developed countries should foster an enabling environment in developing countries, and development partners should scale up financial and technical support, including cooperation with scientific and academic institutions in developing countries, to provide innovative solutions to local development challenges.

15. Reaffirming that culture was both a driver and enabler of sustainable development, he noted how his country's arts and cultural industries had generated employment and access to foreign currencies and had thereby played an important role in its socioeconomic development. A smart partnership had also been established between the Government and the corporate sector in order to increase funding to the cultural sector. As national culture was under threat from urbanization, globalization and acculturation, his delegation stressed that international development assistance should be responsive to the cultural context and the particularities of each country.

16. **Ms. Premchit** (Thailand) said that over the past few decades middle-income countries had experienced relatively robust economic expansion, which had contributed to a decline in global poverty. However, inequalities remained and it had proved difficult for many developing countries to avoid the middle-income trap and ensure sustainable long-term growth. Her Government attached importance to empowering local economies and linking them to regional and global markets in order to build a competitive and resilient domestic economy. It had sought to add value to local production by helping villagers to leverage their skills and craftsmanship. Specialized funding institutions had also helped local small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs, especially women and young people, to access previously unavailable financing.

17. Her Government planned to establish special economic zones along the borders with Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Myanmar. Such zones would be linked to production locations in those countries in order to bridge industrial development gaps between Thailand and its neighbours while strengthening supply chains in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, particularly the ASEAN Economic Community. Similarly, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency had

provided financial assistance and technical expertise to other developing countries in areas such as sustainable aquaculture and agriculture; manufacturing and motor vehicles; health care; and education.

18. Only when communities reached beyond local markets could globalization be harnessed for sustainable development. International cooperation on hard and soft connectivity would reduce the cost and speed of the links between producers and regional and global markets. Her country therefore supported the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. In addition, trade- and international finance-related policies, including a universal rule-based multilateral trading system, transparent financial systems and regional trade liberalization, would promote international integration. The key was to strengthen domestic economies so that they could adjust to the ebbs and flows of the global economy.

19. **Mr. Velásquez** (Honduras) said that every country was primarily responsible for its own economic and social development and that the new 2030 Agenda provided the means required to implement the agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Those means would include financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfers. International cooperation in the fields of science, research, technology and innovation should be intensified, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism was also key to achieving concrete results in the areas covered by the 2030 Agenda.

20. As a middle-income country, Honduras was not a priority recipient of ODA. However, the specific development needs of middle-income countries urgently needed to be met in order to bring about positive socioeconomic transformation. Similarly, a differentiated cooperation strategy should be defined for middle-income countries. That strategy should not be part of a zero-sum equation where resources were taken from some countries and allocated to others. The point was instead to fulfil the moral and ethical obligation to provide assistance to those who needed it most, without discriminating on the basis of numerical indicators or categories unrelated to human realities.

21. Capacity-building was needed to build a dynamic and creative cultural sector that contributed towards

sustainable development, in particular by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship; by facilitating access to domestic and international markets; through the development of cultural organizations and industries; and through technical and vocational training and the creation of employment opportunities. Member States should support the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services and broaden access to international markets. The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was an important instrument for achieving those goals, and countries that had not yet ratified the Convention should do so.

22. **Ms. Ibrahimova** (Azerbaijan) said that technological progress was a driving force behind economic growth, citizens' engagement and job creation. Access to the Internet and ICTs was therefore required to meet the needs of the public, Governments and businesses. The impact of ICTs had turned connectivity into a development-related issue. Meanwhile, access to mobile and fixed broadband remained prohibitively expensive in countries where a lack of technological infrastructure and regulatory bottlenecks still hampered broadband development. Azerbaijan had launched pioneering initiatives in the areas of information technology, transport and energy, and had robust cross-border connectivity and a highly developed ICT sector that had helped landlocked countries in the Eurasian region to expand their development potential and bridge the digital divide.

23. As a member of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations, her country had contributed to sustainable development through the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Located at the crossroads of the East and the West, and sharing the values of both civilizations, Azerbaijan was a geographical and an intercultural bridge. Azerbaijan had hosted high-profile events bringing together political, cultural and religious leaders from the region and beyond, including three world forums on intercultural dialogue. It had also hosted the first ever European Games in Baku and would be hosting the Islamic Solidarity Games in 2017. Azerbaijan had always been a space of religious tolerance where all ethnic and religious groups lived together like one family. However, its contribution to peace had been hampered by the ongoing occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenia, which continued to violate the

principles and norms of international law and Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

24. **Ms. Castro Mazariegos** (Guatemala) said that the Secretariat had a responsibility to lead a process of internal evaluation of the United Nations, guided by the principle of integrating all parts of the system, which meant no longer working in silos. The aim should be to make the system more nimble and better placed to tackle the challenges of the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations should also be the place where global rules were set, for example in the field of economics, where a multilateral legal framework for debt restructuring was needed. The issues of money laundering, tax evasion and tax havens should also be addressed by the United Nations, including its specialized agencies and regional economic commissions.

25. In an interconnected world, problems in one country could spill over into others, for example when conflict, disaster or a lack of opportunity caused people to migrate. The Second Committee should lead the debate on development cooperation for middle-income countries, which were home to around 70 per cent of people living in poverty and had high levels of inequality.

26. Leaving no one behind meant giving priority to the least developed countries. However, middle-income countries had specific problems that were also worthy of cooperation and solidarity. For example, they needed greater technical assistance to strengthen their institutions and meet the expectations of citizens who demanded prosperity. South-South cooperation and solidarity in the area of new production technologies could also support national efforts.

27. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that science, technology and innovation were central to both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and were also essential components in such areas as health, education, energy and climate change adaptation and mitigation. His delegation therefore called for the rapid implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and increased support to developing countries throughout the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. That would allow those countries to make better use of scientific and technological advances and thereby increase their means of production and capacities for innovation, which were crucial for eradicating poverty.

28. It was widely acknowledged that the current method of classifying countries on the basis of per capita gross national income (GNI) was increasingly incapable of taking into account the magnitude of poverty in countries in need of aid. Thus his delegation supported the analysis in paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/70/227), which called for a more nuanced country classification. Revisited classification criteria could take other parameters into account without completely disregarding the level of real economic development of each State. However, all such initiatives must give priority to the poorest middle-income countries. The fact that the Secretary-General's report referred to the classification used by the World Bank showed that the United Nations had not given middle-income countries the attention they deserved.

29. Middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa continued to face multiple socioeconomic and environmental challenges, intensified by global crises. Middle-income countries must therefore remain at the centre of the Committee's agenda. The economic and social fabric of some of those countries was fragile and, unless something was done, they might be downgraded to the low-income category.

30. Accordingly, the international community should provide middle-income countries with a critical mass of adequate, stable and predictable resources and its strategies must also be adapted to the specific needs of those countries. While agriculture, industry and trade should be central to cooperation with middle-income countries, it was also important to create an environment conducive to foreign investment and policies that would be likely to create jobs, especially for the young.

31. Finally, he stressed the importance his Government attached to South-South cooperation and to the crucial role that the agencies, funds and programmes could play in strengthening it.

32. **Monsignor Grech** (Observer for the Holy See) welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, which had focused on specific policy and institutional steps to ensure that the benefits of globalization were distributed more uniformly.

33. Globalization, like other human endeavours, could work for good or for ill. While that phenomenon had contributed to lifting large numbers of people out of poverty, it had also provoked widening inequalities within and among countries. In his recent address to the General Assembly, Pope Francis had morally condemned economic and social exclusion as a complete denial of human fraternity and a selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity. A globalization of solidarity was therefore not only an ethical imperative, but also made economic and political sense. At the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Holy See had therefore drawn attention to the problem of exclusion, particularly in the least developed countries, where many would fall further behind unless the international community helped them to find solutions.

34. Employment for young people was urgently needed, and the search for work and better economic opportunities was largely driving labour migration from poor countries to the developed world. That pressure, in combination with conflicts fuelling mass movements, was expected to grow over the subsequent 15 years. Accordingly, Governments should use economic policy instruments to encourage the private sector to invest in employment-generating activities.

35. A systematic and common response was required from States and international organizations to handle the complexities of migration, which had sadly provided cover for such crimes as trafficking in persons and drugs. Above all other considerations, however, it must be recalled that migrants were fellow human beings endowed with the same dignity and rights as all other persons.

36. In order to deal with the multifaceted issue of globalization and interdependence, the United Nations must revitalize global partnerships for development and the maintenance of peace and security. In that context, the Organization should strengthen its role as a global forum where the voices of the poorest could be heard on all matters affecting their well-being.

37. **Mr. Nour** (International Organization for Migration) said that human mobility was becoming a catalyst for economic and social change. Migration was also a multidimensional reality and a cross-cutting issue. As such, it would benefit from the recommendation that there should be a coherent policy approach to integrate the different aspects of

development and thus provide an enabling environment for migration to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

38. The inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda broke new ground for the nexus between migration and development and would facilitate safe, humane and orderly migration. It would also require comprehensive and holistic policies that addressed the root causes and consequences of migration, not just as an emergency but in all their aspects. Migration was inevitable and would continue to be desirable as long as it was well managed, so that its benefits were maximized and its negative effects minimized. Migration would also be necessary in order for economies to have labour and new knowledge, and for development to take place. Remittances were a good example in that respect, as well as the transfer of knowledge through diasporas.

39. Lastly, he emphasized that partnerships were important and should be built on existing platforms, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Global Migration Group and the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration.

40. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the ability to engage in open and constructive deliberations free from undue politicization and “forum shopping” was another important test for the power of multilateralism at what was a very critical time. Unfortunately, the delegation of Azerbaijan had failed that test by speaking with the objective of promoting a negative agenda through irrelevant accusations, which did not reflect the situation on the ground. In so doing, it had conveniently forgotten to note that the current situation was the direct result of a campaign of ethnic cleansing and war that the Government of Azerbaijan had unleashed against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. It had also failed to mention the fact that, as a result of State-sponsored massacres and atrocities, hundreds of thousands of Armenians living in Soviet Azerbaijan had been forced to leave their homes and seek refuge. The delegate had completely disregarded the fact that the leadership of her country was formally engaged in the peace process mediated by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was mandated by the international community to conduct negotiations and to work out a comprehensive approach to resolving the conflict.

41. She reminded the delegate of Azerbaijan that constructive engagement in a negotiated settlement of the conflict within the internationally mandated format was a prerequisite for peace, as had been emphasized in all international documents, including the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. In fact, engagement in a negotiated settlement was a *sine qua non* for the implementation of those resolutions. In that regard, she referred the Committee to the most recent statement issued by the mediators on 26 September 2015 in New York, which clearly indicated the only party that had been unwilling to engage constructively by refusing the very important proposals made by the mediators. That party was not Armenia.

42. Lastly, on deliberations regarding issues affecting development, including humanitarian matters, justice and human rights, the Committee was surely well aware of the appalling record of Azerbaijan, particularly with regard to human rights and justice. She called upon the delegation of Azerbaijan to adhere to the principles of the working methods of the Committee, and to remain focused on the issues at hand.

43. **Ms. Ibrahimova** (Azerbaijan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was clear that the statement by the representative of Armenia was yet another example of utter falsehood. It was also illustrative of Armenia's endless attempts to create the wrong impression about the real situation on the ground, and to deflect the attention of the international community away from the urgent need to address the main problems caused by that State. However, such a futile effort easily collapsed when the true story was told.

44. The Armenian delegation should start engaging in development efforts in the region, and stop blocking peace, which was a driving force behind prosperity. Instead of criticizing and making selective references, the Armenian delegation, once and for all, must respect the United Nations as a forum, as well as the resolutions adopted by both the Security Council and the General Assembly, which had made specific references and had demanded that Armenia withdraw its forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and stop committing crimes on its territories.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.