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

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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 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/70/75-E/2015/55, A/70/137-E/2015/86, A/70/129, A/70/131, A/70/214, A/70/215, A/70/215/Add.1, A/70/224, A/70/262, A/70/291 and A/70/298; A/C.2/70/2 and A/C.2/70/4)

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (*continued*) (A/70/283 and A/70/422)
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** (*continued*) (A/70/269)
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- (h) **United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development** (*continued*) (A/70/228)

1. **Ms. Kasese-Bota** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was of critical importance for groups of countries such as her own, which faced structural handicaps and serious development challenges. Although many landlocked developing

countries had missed the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets by a wide margin, full implementation of the new 2030 Agenda would set those countries on the path towards economic prosperity and sustainable development.

2. To realize the Sustainable Development Goals and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, it was crucial not only to coordinate existing and new infrastructure initiatives, but also to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in vulnerable countries. Multilateral development banks must develop instruments to channel long-term investment resources towards sustainable development, including green bonds, focusing on developing and maintaining the physical links of landlocked developing countries to regional transport infrastructure. As infrastructure development was often hampered by inadequate plans, insufficiently prepared investment projects and misplaced risk perceptions, global initiatives must address insufficient investment in infrastructure through technical support to vulnerable countries.

3. The steady decline in foreign direct investment to landlocked developing countries must be reversed if those countries were to realize the Sustainable Development Goals; private sector actors must also invest in critical areas. New investment vehicles must be established such as development-oriented venture capital funds, blended finance, risk mitigation instruments, and innovative debt funding structures with appropriate risk management and regulatory frameworks. As public-private partnerships were crucial to realizing the new Goals, clarity was needed on how landlocked developing countries' capacities could be enhanced in that regard.

4. As landlocked developing countries were especially vulnerable to climate change, desertification, drought, land degradation and flooding, concrete efforts must be made to raise an estimated \$100 billion per year for the Green Climate Fund. In addition, landlocked developing countries faced serious energy deficits and required support for research to expand and upgrade energy supply infrastructure. The international community should therefore mobilize the annual amount required, as recommended by the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

5. International institutions must help to cushion vulnerable countries against external shocks, including by ensuring steady and stable access to public financing. The relevant institutions should also improve early warning systems for macroeconomic and financial risks. Development partners, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), were urged to offer appropriate technical assistance to support capacity-building in landlocked developing countries and enable them to complete the WTO accession process and integrate into the multilateral trading system. Her delegation called for the timely ratification of the 2013 Trade Facilitation Agreement. It also stood ready to work with others to end poverty and hunger and realize sustainable development in all its three dimensions.

6. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the new 2030 Agenda finally integrated all three dimensions of sustainable development, reflecting inherent interlinkages and synergies between social, economic and environmental issues. It was therefore necessary to better align the Second Committee's work with that Agenda and to rethink its proliferation of resolutions, which made it challenging for delegations, especially small ones, to give appropriate attention to many issues.

7. Securing an ambitious, legally binding international agreement on climate change in 2015 was a priority for the European Union and its member States. Such an agreement must keep the world on track regarding the objective of limiting the temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius, address mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation in a comprehensive and balanced way, and help accelerate transition towards sustainable carbon-neutral, climate-resilient economies. The agreement reached at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must deliver on a clear, operational long-term goal of 50 per cent greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels and near zero or below by 2100. It must also establish strong rules for holding all parties accountable for their commitments and a dynamic five-yearly mitigation ambition mechanism for regular stocktaking and strengthening of their greenhouse gas reduction commitments over time. Fair and ambitious intended nationally determined contributions were therefore to be submitted by all parties that had not done so.

8. The twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, currently meeting in Turkey, sought to clarify the key role that the Convention would play in supporting implementation of Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The current rate of species extinction and deterioration of basic ecosystem services was an issue of global concern. The European Union and its member States were undertaking a midterm review of their biodiversity strategy to 2020, committing to increasing their contribution to averting global biodiversity loss and working to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as Goals 14 and 15 in particular.

9. The European Union and its member States were committed to reducing vulnerability and building resilience to future shocks as prerequisites for poverty and hunger reduction and sustainable development. Disaster risk reduction was already being integrated into numerous policies as well as financial assistance programmes, including development cooperation and humanitarian aid, with a particular focus on disaster-prone countries. In that regard, they stood ready to play their full part in supporting the implementation of both the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

10. Lastly, he said that there was clear added value in consolidating the work done by the Committee over the years on sustainable tourism and in highlighting, in an integrated manner, the many contributions that well-managed tourism could provide to poverty eradication and the three dimensions of sustainable development.

11. **Ms. Cooper-Zubida** (Israel) said that it was now recognized that development was a multifaceted concept requiring long-term solutions in the social, economic and environmental fields. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were an essential requirement for achieving sustainable development. Women had the potential to change not only their own economic status, but that of their families, communities and countries. Sustainable development entailed reaching those people left furthest behind, most of whom lived in rural areas and depended on agriculture. As agricultural technology possessed the power to eradicate poverty, ensure the sustainability of food systems and preserve resources, her delegation

would be submitting a resolution on agricultural technology for development.

12. With few natural resources and mostly arid land, Israel had long been forced to develop technological solutions to agriculture, and was thus in a good position to share its agricultural know-how around the world. Indeed, her own family had learned to harness technology in order to improve the quantity and quality of their crops, as well as their lives, as farmers. In order to fully realize the transformative power of agricultural technology, the international community must commit to research, development and implementation.

13. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) said that his country placed capital importance on biological diversity and its connection to human well-being. Natural resources were valuable and vulnerable assets that his country worked to protect through a variety of policies and actions. Reiterating the importance of the resolution on harmony with nature, he stressed that the time had come to become the guardians of the planet and to ensure that the world's common resources were used in a sustainable manner and equitably shared.

14. The international community must work towards well-being for all within a framework of sustainable development and harmony with Mother Earth. The eradication of poverty was the world's greatest challenge and recognized as such in the 2030 Agenda and in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The achievement of those Goals would require a stronger global partnership, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and urgent efforts were needed to combat poverty, hunger, malnutrition, new illness stemming from war and conflict, violence against women and children, and the negative effects of climate change.

15. It was essential that developing countries had access to financial and technological resources, including capacity- and institution-building, in order to promote their own national policies. Thanks in part to its national household survey on living conditions, Nicaragua had recognized that integrated education policies, as well as social programmes, were crucial for eliminating poverty. From 2009 to 2014, Nicaragua had reduced its general and extreme poverty levels to 29.6 per cent and 8.3 per cent, respectively.

16. Developing countries suffered the most from climate change. Developed countries must provide

developing countries with direct and unconditional aid based on the principle of historical responsibility. Given that climate change had increased the risk of natural disasters, disaster risk reduction was also important, especially for developing countries that were particularly vulnerable.

17. **Mr. Ermolovich** (Belarus) said that the 2030 Agenda represented a successful outcome and the most advanced United Nations strategy to date for improving living standards around the world. His delegation welcomed the inclusion therein of a number of priority issues for Belarus, including middle-income countries, energy, combating human trafficking and preventing unilateral coercive measures. He also stressed that there was clearly no place for sanctions or other unilateral actions that circumvented the United Nations Charter.

18. Henceforth, effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda must take into account the specific situation of each country and the national development priorities determined by their Governments. The United Nations system needed a plan of action to assist countries in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. It was also necessary to think about how States could manage and coordinate those activities within the United Nations system, such as through the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

19. Integrational processes in all regions were on the rise and were an important factor for sustainable development. In that context, the United Nations should pay more attention to cooperation with regional integration associations. The United Nations regional economic commissions, the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum could serve as platforms for fostering dialogue among such integration associations.

20. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which was an important part of the new development agenda, must be genuinely democratic and open to all interested parties, including middle-income countries. Within that framework, he said that particular attention should be paid to the issue of energy, and that it would be logical to hold a dialogue on establishing a comprehensive United Nations energy agenda that took into account the interests of all States, including the issues of technology transfer and increased energy efficiency.

21. Belarus was actively involved in the process of preparing for the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference and wished to contribute towards limiting the rise of global average temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius. In that context, the Government of Belarus planned to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to at least 28 per cent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. Furthermore, the future climate agreement should include motivational mechanisms to encourage those parties that had in fact reduced their harmful emissions. For example, it would be useful to have a system of incentives facilitating direct investment in environmentally responsible States, in order to develop their climate related technologies and maintain their energy, transport and industrial infrastructure.

22. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Mexico) said that the transition to sustainable forms of consumption and production for an ever-growing global population was a requirement for sustainable development and would demand international cooperation, significant investments in research and development, and technology transfer towards developing countries. The private sector must also play a role, including through public-private partnerships for sustainable development.

23. Mexico viewed the 2030 Agenda as a State commitment that would require inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination with the Government, the local legislature, civil society and the private sector, as well as international cooperation.

24. His delegation supported efforts to achieve sustainable development in small island developing States and the follow-up to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway adopted in 2014. It was crucial for small island developing States to be able to receive support from the specialized programmes and agencies of the United Nations system in order to improve their environmental conditions and minimize the impact of climate change. His delegation also recognized the importance of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, especially with regard to the success obtained at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that produced the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

25. Mexico was especially proud of having achieved the initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund, surpassing \$10.6 billion, and looked forward to approving the Fund's first projects in November 2015 in Zambia.

26. Combating desertification was a priority for Mexico and an essential part of its framework for the sustainable management of natural resources. It was crucial to meet the objectives contained in the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020 in order to halt the pace of biological diversity loss and give ecosystems the ability to recover while continuing to provide essential services.

27. Lastly, his delegation invited the international community to participate in the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Mexico the following year, and to ensure that countries worked towards the sustainable conservation of ecosystems.

28. **Mr. Cheong Loon Lai** (Malaysia) said that although significant progress towards the achievement of the MDGs had been made during the previous 15 years, especially with regard to poverty, results had been uneven. The comprehensive 2030 Agenda, which was designed to fill in the remaining gaps, would require strong political will and the effective mobilization of resources to establish sustainable development as a long-term and people-centred endeavour. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets should therefore be mainstreamed into national plans and strategies. Key attention should be paid to the environmental pillar, including at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

29. Malaysia was embarking on its new five-year development plan, which mirrored the multidimensional nature of the 2030 Agenda and had been formulated as a people-centred programme. Through initiatives that were focused on outcome-based support and productivity-linked assistance, such as entrepreneurship and skills training, technology adoption, asset ownership and investment in promoting connectivity and basic amenities, Malaysia was also committed to ensuring equitable opportunities for all. By 2020, the country hoped to double the average income for the bottom 40 per cent of the population and raise them into the middle class. It also strove to raise the participation rate of women in the workforce from 53 per cent to 59 per cent. Rural areas would be transformed by improved connectivity and mobility, ultimately creating more business-friendly environments.

30. His country had undertaken several measures to decouple economic growth from environmental

degradation and had mainstreamed environmental issues into economic planning. Through mitigation measures, Malaysia was on track to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to its gross domestic product by the year 2020.

31. **Ms. Karabaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that it was extremely important for the new 2030 Agenda to take into account the needs of the most vulnerable groups of countries, including mountainous and landlocked developing countries such as her own. While her Government would strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, its ability to do so would also depend on the provision of sufficient international development finance.

32. Developing countries should have greater ownership over the financing of their national development programmes by effectively using domestic reserves, improving tax administration and combating corruption. By pursuing those policies over the past five years, Kyrgyzstan had gradually increased State income and the well-being of its population. Thus, in 2014 the World Bank had graduated Kyrgyzstan to the status of a middle-income developing country.

33. Her delegation supported an integrated approach to combating hunger and poverty by promoting such issues as education, health, gender equality, the rule of law and economic development. Stressing the humanitarian, economic and environmental aspects of water conservation, it also supported the call for a new International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", following on from the International Decade for Action, "Water for life", 2005-2015, and as part of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. The high-level political forum of the Economic and Social Council should play a key role in monitoring and evaluating the progress made in implementing the global sustainable development agenda. It provided the institutional framework that could comprehensively review, coordinate and strengthen cooperation with other platforms, while not only providing timely reports to the international community about achievements, problems and threats, but also developing expedient recommendations to address them.

35. Effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would require strengthened

cooperation and integrated approaches, particularly at the national level. Indeed, the national component of a review was its most important part, since only it was capable of reflecting a country's specific development characteristics. National reviews should be voluntary, taking into account the views of civil society, academia, the business community and other interested parties. Since those reviews were the main instrument of accountability to the public, Governments should play a key role in that process.

36. Her Government had been conducting a national sustainable development policy since 2013, and existing strategic documents had already broadly integrated the Sustainable Development Goals. Other achievements included the establishment of the National Council for Sustainable Development and the adaptation of the MDG Coordinating Committee to fit the 2030 Agenda. As a member of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, her country would also work to build the capacities of its relevant statistical bodies.

37. **Mr. Vasiliev** (Russian Federation) recalled the importance of maintaining a balance while implementing the three components of sustainable development. Since the Sustainable Development Goals were part of an integrated and indivisible whole, it would be counterproductive to attempt to single out the importance of any one Goal. Furthermore, political leadership and the preparation of global strategic recommendations for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals were the prerogatives of the high-level political forum. Attempts to draw into that process other non-specialized United Nations bodies, in particular the Security Council, would lead to politicization of the 2030 Agenda. In view of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/283), it would be useful to begin a dialogue on organizing the work of the forum as the main intergovernmental mechanism for follow-up activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, his delegation attached great importance to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and would await the completion of work by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators before reviewing the

progress made in that regard. His country intended to participate constructively in the joint work to establish a United Nations database on the damage caused by natural disasters in different countries and regions of the world.

39. His delegation welcomed the significant progress achieved in implementing the provisions of the Samoa Pathway in the national strategies of small island developing States themselves and in the work of the United Nations system. It also welcomed the work of the Joint Inspection Unit in carrying out a comprehensive review of the support provided by the United Nations to small island developing States, whose conclusions should help to improve cooperation among all interested parties for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Since 2010, his country had allocated \$20 million to priorities identified under the Samoa Pathway and by the end of 2015 it expected to provide \$10 million through a major project under the United Nations Development Programme to enhance the resilience of Pacific islands to emergency situations.

40. Addressing global climate change was an important condition for ensuring sustainable development. The strategic challenge for the Paris Climate Change Conference would be to draw up a comprehensive legally binding and universal agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol. The Russian Federation had fulfilled its commitments under that prior agreement: its greenhouse gas emissions were 31 per cent lower than the 1990 levels, and a Presidential decree had stipulated that emissions by the year 2020 would be no more than 75 per cent of the 1990 levels.

41. The Russian Federation supported the international process for implementing Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. It would also be actively involved in implementing the outcome of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, with a view to strengthening the Forum's coordinating role in the context of the 2030 Agenda and for the conservation and sustainable development of the world's forests.

42. **Mr. Al Safar** (Iraq) said that his country was severely affected by desertification encroaching on arable land, particularly in the south and middle of

Iraq. The effects of scant rainfall and high temperatures had been exacerbated by irrigation projects in upstream countries on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The impact was felt well beyond the 30 per cent of Iraqis who depended on agriculture for their livelihoods, giving rise to a countrywide food shortage and causing migration from the countryside that was putting pressure on urban infrastructure and services. His Government was creating a "national green belt" as a first line of defence against desertification. It would be completed in a 5 to 10-year period and would range from 1 to 5 kilometres in width. He appealed to the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to provide assistance with that project.

43. **Mr. Rodrigues dos Santos** (Brazil) said that the 2030 Agenda set a new path for the United Nations towards sustainable development, shaped by open, transparent and inclusive negotiations. The international community should remain faithful to the commitments set forth in the Sustainable Development Goals and work for their implementation, follow-up and review at all levels, while continuing to rely on the central role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Several mandates had been reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda, such as the need to strengthen the science-policy interface, including through global sustainable development reports.

44. His delegation looked forward to the proposal of the United Nations Statistical Commission on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals that respected their scope, balance and integrated nature. It also welcomed the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, an innovative and promising initiative aimed at addressing the historical responsibilities of developed countries in relation to international cooperation on science, technology and innovation.

45. The special needs of small island developing States must be further addressed by the United Nations system, including through the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway. With regard to the follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework, it was important for the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction to work closely with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators.

46. Concerning the issue of climate change, his delegation was working to achieve a universal and binding agreement that would be able to keep global temperature increases under 2 degrees Celsius; the agreement must involve all countries and fully respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

47. Brazil had released its intended nationally determined contribution at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 43 per cent by the year 2030 compared with 2005 levels. Deforestation had also been curbed by 79 per cent over the previous decade, making Brazil the country that had reduced greenhouse gas emissions the most in the world.

48. As some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and people were found in zones affected by desertification, Brazil was also committed to strengthening the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Despite the steps that had been taken to preserve biodiversity, current efforts were not sufficient to meet most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Since biodiversity preservation was critical for the achievement of most Sustainable Development Goals, it was necessary to strengthen political support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to scale up efforts before the end of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020. His delegation consequently welcomed the decision to strengthen the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, as the sustainable management of forests was critical for the conservation of biodiversity, the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development.

49. **Ms. Engelbrecht Schadtler** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda marked an attempt to achieve a truly different form of development that was transformative and inclusive. Greater political will would be necessary, especially on the part of developed countries, to elaborate coordinated strategies to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. A large part of the Sustainable Development Goals had already been integrated into national development strategies in 2013.

50. Her delegation promoted sovereign cooperation and respect for different visions of sustainable development. International cooperation, designed to

complement national plans and strategies, must not lead to policy prescriptions, particularly to the imposition of a single view of sustainable development such as the green economy. Financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and the facilitation, transfer and dissemination of clean technologies should be provided unconditionally and in accordance with each country's sustainable development policies. It was important to recall that lifting millions out of poverty had been achieved through State action.

51. Climate change, biological diversity loss and desertification were continuing at an accelerated rate, impeding poverty eradication and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was therefore necessary to reach a bold outcome at the Paris Climate Change Conference, taking into account the historical responsibilities of the developed countries and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities, as well as economic and social conditions.

52. Her country supported the different resolutions on disaster risk reduction, as well as the voluntary nature of cooperation when addressing natural disasters. The United Nations should continue to step up and improve its work to reduce the impacts of such disasters.

53. It was essential for all populations, including indigenous peoples, to participate at all levels of decision-making in the fight against land degradation and for the achievement of sustainable development in harmony with nature. Traditional practices and ancestral knowledge were therefore key tools to combat desertification and climate change.

54. High-quality education accessible to all was a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, gender equality, the empowerment of women, human development and the full participation of all citizens, especially youth. Greater international cooperation was needed to consolidate and strengthen educational infrastructure and increase investments in education and research and development, in particular investments to improve education quality in developing countries. Her country's model of sustainable development was people-centred and based on solidarity, justice, social inclusion, equality, the promotion and respect for human rights and the participation of all citizens.

55. **Ms. Loe** (Norway) said that the way in which the social, economic and environmental dimensions were integrated into the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, including the innovation of Goal 16 on peace and governance, was promising but challenging, as it required enhanced collaboration at all levels and across all sectors. Political will was crucial for building sustainable societies.

56. Non-discrimination was the basis for stable and inclusive societies, while the links between human rights, governance, security and development must be acknowledged in order to make economic and social development possible. Although the Sustainable Development Goals represented a guide, there was no one-size-fits-all approach to sustainable development and context would always be crucial.

57. Fighting climate change was much more than just an environmental issue since it affected the livelihoods of current and future generations, increased the risk of conflicts and mass migrations and acted as a threat multiplier. Aggravating both poverty and natural disasters, climate change must also be recognized as a global security challenge. All available tools, including mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, must be applied in a comprehensive approach that focused on building resilience.

58. She wondered how the Committee's agenda items and resolutions could be better organized to ensure their constructive contribution to the implementation and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals, adding that it would perhaps make sense to replace the regular Agenda 21 resolution with a new resolution on follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

59. **Mr. Takahashi** (Japan) said that it was important to examine how to implement the 2030 Agenda in the most effective, integrated and coherent manner. Sustainable development and poverty eradication were the overarching themes of the new Agenda. It was an opportune time to take a wider look at the Second Committee's work and align it with the 2030 Agenda.

60. Climate change was one of the most imminent threats facing humankind, and sustainable development and poverty eradication could never be achieved without addressing it. A successful outcome to the Paris Climate Change Conference should build on the momentum created by the outcomes of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the third International Conference on

Financing for Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

61. Japan had now submitted its intended nationally determined contribution, it had provided approximately \$20 billion in climate finance to developing countries from 2013 to 2014, and it had pledged \$1.5 billion to the Green Climate Fund.

62. As the host country to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Japan was committed to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in all areas of the 2030 Agenda as an integral part of sustainable development. It would also work with all partners and stakeholders on the full implementation of the Sendai Framework. Review and follow-up of the World Conference must be conducted in line with the 2030 Agenda, so as to avoid duplication. As part of its contribution to the follow-up of the Sendai Framework, his delegation and its partners would introduce a resolution to establish World Tsunami Day. By raising awareness about the 250,000 lives taken by tsunamis during the past 11 years, as well as the extensive damage caused to basic infrastructure, his delegation hoped to reduce the risk to human lives and sustainable development.

63. Japan had committed to implementing the Samoa Pathway, including by addressing the priorities of small island developing States. The country's engagement to those States in the Pacific region had been demonstrated during the first Japan-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit Meeting held in 2014 and by the Seventh Japan-Pacific Islands Leaders' Meeting held in May 2015.

64. **Mr. Ahmad Al-Kuwari** (Qatar) said that the post-2015 development agenda was now moving from the vision phase to the implementation phase. The high-level political forum on sustainable development would be a major contributor to meeting new and emerging challenges. His country was working continuously to implement the Rio+20 outcome document on the basis of the principles of coordination at all levels, common but differentiated responsibilities and national sovereignty over natural resources.

65. The report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled "Review of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014" (A/70/228), had stressed harmonizing education

programmes at the global and regional levels, mainstreaming education for sustainable development into relevant policies and promoting best practices. His country had founded the “Education Above All” global initiative to provide educational opportunities in societies suffering from poverty and conflict.

66. As the Secretary-General had stated on the occasion of the 2015 World Day to Combat Desertification, land degradation and desertification undercut human rights, starting with the right to food. The Rio+20 outcome document had also stressed the global challenges posed by desertification, land degradation and drought. His country had established the Global Dryland Alliance to provide developing countries with assistance in implementing strategies to address those challenges. He hoped that the urgent and ambitious measures necessary to combat desertification would be endorsed by the upcoming Paris Climate Change Conference.

67. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Ukraine) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/70/282) and also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It was particularly pleased with the shift of focus in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from managing disasters to managing disaster risks. As a country that was suffering from the economic, environmental and health impacts of the ongoing man-made disaster brought about by the recent military action against it, Ukraine believed that it was high time for the United Nations to address protection of the environment in conflicts.

68. In the course of implementing the recommendations of the 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction should emphasize managing the impacts of natural, technological and biological disasters in conflict areas.

69. At the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, his country’s delegation had taken part in a presentation on recovering from the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. It looked forward to the broader dissemination of knowledge and expertise on disaster prevention,

response and recovery to achieve more effective and sustainable risk management.

70. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) said that the 2030 Agenda, building on the MDGs, sought to review, strengthen and upgrade the international development agenda, galvanizing both developing and developed countries to recommit to the quest for sustainable development. Poverty eradication remained the greatest challenge facing the world, and was both an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and a matter of basic justice and human rights. In a world of abundance and technological advances, no one should face social or economic exclusion.

71. Despite significant progress over the previous two decades, developing countries continued to struggle with their development levels, in part due to an unfavourable international economic environment and decreasing levels of official development assistance (ODA). The right to development and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should remain the basis of all current and future global development efforts. Progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals would also depend on progress made in the means of implementation, mainly in terms of finance and technology.

72. Support must be provided to the high-level political forum so that it could provide the political leadership necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda, promote the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development at all levels and ensure the means of implementation.

73. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was the primary international and intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Any international response must enhance the Convention’s implementation and be in accordance with its principles and provisions, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

74. Water was critical for life, and properly managing water resources was also essential for achieving sustainable development, economic and social growth, poverty eradication and equity. Egypt was classified as a water-poor State and was on the verge of becoming a water-scarce country. Facing the prospect of water shortages and droughts, his delegation welcomed Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals and looked forward to the development of proper indicators, as well

as reductions in the number of people facing water poverty and in the number of countries facing water stress. The United Nations energy agenda must also include the creation of an effective mechanism for the transfer of advanced energy technologies, particularly in the field of new and renewable energy. His delegation therefore welcomed the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

75. Combatting land degradation, drought and desertification remained a priority, as the world could not adapt to climate change or mitigate its effects without sustainable land management. His delegation therefore also looked forward to concrete outcomes from the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

76. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that humankind, whose actions had brought about climate change, had a duty to find a solution to that pressing problem. The 2030 Agenda had recognized that the challenge of climate change was universal and needed to be addressed collectively. The Paris Climate Change Conference should create a legally binding universal agreement that addressed such issues as mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building on the basis of equality and in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It was also imperative to honour pledges to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius or 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

77. Like many developing countries, Sri Lanka contributed relatively little to global warming but was extremely vulnerable to its effects. Extreme weather events were already a common occurrence in Sri Lanka and further volatility would have an adverse impact on socioeconomic conditions. His country had formulated a climate change policy based on adaptation and was doing its utmost to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by developing renewable energy sources and implementing energy conservation measures. Sri Lanka's Buddhist tradition held that the rulers of the Earth were merely temporary custodians of its environment, which they had a duty to protect for future generations.

78. **Ms. Yaima de Armas** (Cuba) said that it had been a long road from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth

Summit) to the current 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose primary objective was the eradication of poverty. Over that time, developing countries had achieved significant progress while facing unique environmental and developmental challenges; however, close to 836 million people still lived in extreme poverty and more than 160 million children under five continued to be afflicted by malnutrition and stunting. In addition, more than 880 million people lived in slum conditions within developing countries.

79. Many global challenges disproportionately affected developing countries. Moreover, a deeply inequitable and unjust international economic, financial and trade system with unsustainable patterns of consumption and production further increased the vulnerabilities of least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries. As a developing country, Cuba reaffirmed the need to respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The right to sustainable and inclusive development required industrialized countries to fulfil their commitments and to transfer technology under preferential conditions for developing countries.

80. The promise contained in the MDGs had not become a reality for all countries, especially ODA commitments under Goal 8. In order for the ambitious 2030 Agenda to succeed, South-South and triangular cooperation would not be enough. Traditional North-South cooperation remained essential for developing countries to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. Despite the challenges it faced, Cuba remained committed to sharing its modest resources and knowledge, in particular to help its fellow countries of the global South meet all of their international sustainable development commitments.

81. The eyes of the world were on the United Nations, as time ran out for the planet. Solutions to sustainable development could be found if true political will existed in large consumer societies to do the right thing and save the world from self-destruction. Quoting former President Fidel Castro speaking at the 1992 Earth Summit, she recalled his words that ecological rather than external debts should be paid, and that once selfishness, hegemony, insensitivity and cheating had disappeared, so too would hunger.

82. **Mr. Muddahanumegowda** (India) said that sustainable development was not merely about minimizing environmental impacts but rather should involve a holistic concept that incorporated the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and prioritized the eradication of poverty and hunger. In the view of his delegation, sustainable development was about avoiding repetition of the choices that had wrecked the environment in the first place. However, decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions had proven difficult even in the most advanced economies. That was especially the case for developing countries, where ending poverty and hunger through rapid economic growth was an overriding imperative. The burden of sustainability should not be placed on the poor, and livelihoods in the developing South should not be compromised for the sake of preserving lifestyles in the North.

83. Although India had not been part of the problem, it planned to be part of the solution and its intended nationally determined contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reflected that commitment. Unfortunately, such contributions by developed countries were far below their fair share. Efforts to combat climate change would not succeed if there was a failure to honour the balance of responsibilities between developed and developing countries enshrined in the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. However, the voices and interests of the vast majority of developing countries were currently being stifled, if not ignored, in the run-up to the Paris Climate Change Conference. If the developed countries wanted the rest of the world to walk in step with them on climate change, they should not shift the burden of climate action onto the shoulders of the developing countries.

84. **Mr. M. Osman Sid Ahmed Mohammed Ali** (Sudan) said that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda represented significant steps towards the goal of eradicating hunger and poverty. However, it remained a matter of grave concern to the developing countries that, with the Paris Climate Change Conference just over the horizon, the developed countries that were historically responsible for global warming had been less than forthcoming with their intended nationally determined contributions for the post-2020 period. His country was among those that felt the most severe effects of climate change, with decreased rainfall reducing agricultural yields.

85. Least developed countries, post-conflict countries and countries in special situations would not be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without support for capacity-building, technology transfer or continued infusions of ODA. Desertification, natural disasters, loss of biological diversity and the other topics being discussed under the agenda item could only be addressed through ambitious national programmes and regional cooperation that focused less on managing disasters and more on managing threats. While each State was responsible for laying out its own national strategy, international cooperation coordinated by the United Nations development system was indispensable, especially for the poorest of the poor in the developing and least developed countries.

86. **Mr. Abdullahi** (Nigeria) said that completing the unfinished business of the MDGs would depend on eradicating poverty, especially in Africa. His country was pleased that the 2030 Agenda had reaffirmed the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities as enshrined in the Rio+20 outcome document. Implementation of the new Agenda should adequately reflect national priorities and realities, and international partners should meet their various commitments in a timely, predictable and sustainable manner.

87. Africa was one of the continents most vulnerable to climate change but least equipped to adapt to and mitigate its effects. Most African countries depended on rain-fed agriculture and were all the more vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of infrastructure deficits, disease, conflict and the unsustainable use of natural resources. They needed the international community's support to develop emergency response capacities and post-disaster capabilities.

88. His delegation, which stressed the importance of technology transfer in promoting industrialization and structural transformation, looked forward to the establishment of a mechanism for the transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. The twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima in 2014, had taken important steps towards elaborating the key elements of a legally binding universal climate agreement. He looked forward to the finalization of such an agreement at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference.

89. Lastly, he urged the international community to scale up national, subregional, regional and international partnerships with a view to collectively advancing sustainable development and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

90. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives) said that her delegation regarded the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals to be as important as the Goals themselves. She was particularly pleased to see provisions for enhancing the data collection and analysis capacities of developing countries. Improving the technical capacity of national statistical commissions would be of particular importance in establishing the baselines in order to finalize targets and indicators by March 2016. As a small island developing State, the Maldives looked forward to the launch of the partnership framework provided for in the Samoa Pathway during the current session of the General Assembly.

91. Rising sea levels, warming oceans and ocean acidification were of great concern to small island developing States. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change continued to offer a dismal outlook for low-lying countries such as the Maldives, and urgent action was required to combat climate change, facilitate access to sustainable energy and ensure the sustainability of oceans. In countries such as her own, a natural disaster could wipe out years of development gains in a matter of seconds. The measurements used to assess development progress therefore needed to take into account the particular circumstances of countries that were highly susceptible to economic and environmental shocks.

92. With tourism and fisheries as its two main industries, the Maldives paid particular attention to the sustainable use of oceans. Its local fishing industry had developed a "pole and line" technique that allowed only sustainable amounts of fish to be caught, and its construction industry followed strict rules on renewable energy, environmentally friendly materials and waste management. Her delegation supported all initiatives that highlighted the importance of sustainable tourism for development.

93. **Mr. Tenya Hasegawa** (Peru) said that 2015 was a year of important decisions, including the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, which would all require coordinated, effective and coherent action. As disaster risk reduction was a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda, the

Sustainable Development Goals would be threatened unless informed decisions were taken in that regard. The Sendai Framework had recognized the link between natural disasters, climate change and sustainable development, illustrating the international community's commitment to substantially reducing the risk of disasters and their costs.

94. Owing to its geographic location and morphological and tectonic features, Peru faced a number of risks that could threaten its security and development while negatively affecting the livelihoods of its vulnerable population. Disaster risk management was therefore part of its national development agenda. In that context, new technologies allowed his country to be better prepared for the El Niño phenomenon, whose impact in 2015 was predicted to be the strongest since 1997. A national action plan and a number of emergency decrees were therefore being prepared in order to allocate greater budgetary resources to deal with the phenomenon. However, timely assistance from the international community would also be required.

95. Peru was particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, many of which were already being observed. The country's intended nationally determined contribution had proposed a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. To that end, interventions in such sectors as water, agriculture, fishing, forests and health would be prioritized, with the focus placed on improving disaster risk management, enhancing the resilience of public infrastructure, protecting vulnerable populations, promoting private investment and mainstreaming a gender perspective and multiculturalism.

96. Peru's economic growth in recent years was the result of the transition to a low-carbon economy that promoted large-scale energy efficiency, the use of renewable energies, more efficient transport, the proper management of solid waste and the modernization of industrial processes.

97. Having held the presidency of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change, Peru was now working to achieve an ambitious outcome in Paris, including by putting forth the Lima-Paris Action Agenda. As a country facing the effects of climate change, Peru would advocate for an agreement in Paris that was highly ambitious, promoted low-emission economies that were resilient to climate

change, and ensured sustainable development and poverty eradication.

98. **Mr. Simati** (Tuvalu) said that the 2030 Agenda must address persistent inequities that caused vulnerable groups to continue to be left behind. A nationally-driven development agenda meant that development partnerships should honour national priorities and needs.

99. There was also a national responsibility to address pollution and other man-made contributors to climate change. The 2030 Agenda would mean little to low-lying small island developing States if they were underwater, which was a distinct possibility if the Agenda adopted was not followed up by an ambitious agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

100. Good ocean governance was a matter of particular concern to his delegation. All negotiations on that issue must be free of greed; all fisheries must be legal, controlled and regulated; and all ocean dumping must be stopped.

101. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative must be a shared undertaking to transition swiftly to renewable alternatives. In that context, the transfer of relevant technology, skills and data, as well as capacity-building efforts, should be tailored to the particular circumstances of each country.

102. Lastly, stressing that international and national development agendas should be synchronized with the 2030 Agenda, he said that the United Nations must ultimately be fit for purpose, not bureaucratic. In particular, the role of the high-level political forum should be purposefully strengthened with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

103. **Ms. Baisabayeva** (Kazakhstan) said that the primary responsibility for implementing sustainable development rested with Governments. Her country, which had formulated national development priorities and objectives even before the Sustainable Development Goals had been conceptualized, was working to integrate the 2030 Agenda into its national framework.

104. Kazakhstan supported the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and shared concerns about the impact of climate change. In that regard, the Paris Climate Change Conference would need to focus in particular on cutting emissions, mobilizing money and markets, pricing carbon,

strengthening resilience and mobilizing new coalitions. The new legally binding agreement should be committed to the target of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius and should include support for mitigation and adaptation. The international community should also work together to mobilize the public and private funds needed to meet the goal of \$100 billion per year for the Green Climate Fund by 2020. Putting a price on carbon would encourage markets to invest in climate solutions.

105. Welcoming the Samoa Pathway, she said that Kazakhstan had already provided funding for biogas projects in 12 Pacific small island developing States and, in conjunction with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, intended to provide additional assistance for a project on the institutional implementation of green technologies.

106. Kazakhstan had contributed to the development of alternative sources of energy in the most vulnerable countries; its capital, Astana, would be hosting Expo-2017 under the theme “Future Energy”; and her country had also established the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which was growing to include its Central Asian neighbours as well as European partners.

107. She recalled that, during the General Assembly’s recent general debate, President Nazarbaev had proposed that all States Members of the United Nations should allocate the equivalent of 1 per cent of their military spending to the Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

108. As a country with limited water resources, Kazakhstan supported a comprehensive study of international water law, including the proposal of Tajikistan to follow up the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, (2005-2015), with a similar Decade. As a country also affected by desertification, Kazakhstan actively supported the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

109. Lastly, she expressed her country's appreciation to the World Bank and to the subregional office of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for their cooperation to ensure the efficient and rational use of water resources in the Aral Sea basin.

110. **Mr. Mahmaminov** (Tajikistan) said that his country, which fully supported the international

community's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, was developing a new national development strategy up to the period 2030 as well as a midterm national development programme for the period 2016-2020 in order to incorporate those Goals. However, the international community should do more to create a global environment conducive to the achievement of sustainable development. It was essential in that regard not only to revitalize international trade and investments, but also to promote the transfer of innovative and environmentally sound technologies.

111. Water scarcity in Central Asia made adaptation to climate change an issue of particular importance to his country. Tajikistan had submitted its intended nationally determined contribution and three national communications to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, in conjunction with its partners, his country had recently launched the Third Pamir's International Geophysical Expedition to assess natural and man-made impacts on Tajikistan's high-altitude glaciers, which were a crucial source of water for the entire Central Asian region. The International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", (2005-2015), had engaged all relevant stakeholders in exploring strategies to improve global water policy coordination. In view of that success, the next such Decade should be proclaimed in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

112. **Mr. Andambi** (Kenya) said that his country's Vision 2030 had incorporated all the important commitments contained in the Sustainable Development Goals. He wished particularly to highlight contributions made by his country to implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. As the transit country for a number of its landlocked neighbours, Kenya was sensitive to the costs associated with trading across borders and had instituted a one-stop border post system to streamline transit clearance procedures at major border posts. The new system had reduced previously lengthy clearance times and freed up capital that would otherwise be tied up in underwriting tax indemnification arrangements. For example, the border post installed at Malaba on the Kenya-Uganda border had cut by more than two thirds the time that it took for goods to reach the port of

Mombasa. Several other such posts were in the process of being arranged with other neighbours.

113. He looked forward to the ratification and implementation of relevant international, regional and subregional agreements on transit cooperation. Fostering development partnerships remained the key to the successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. That instrument could also effectively contribute towards the eradication of poverty and meeting the sustainable development commitments contained in the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

114. **Mr. Shilla** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that despite years of negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the international community had yet to arrive at concrete commitments for adaptation and mitigation. Developmental and environmental sustainability, which had been the core objectives of Agenda 21, required more research into the causes of climate change and additional resources and technology for developing countries. Calling on Governments and the international community to ensure that the appropriate commitments were made at the upcoming Paris Climate Change Conference, he also looked forward to progress on the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

115. Every year, disasters wiped out existing development gains and diverted billions of dollars that might otherwise be used to invest in future development. Tanzania had made considerable progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of the Southern Africa Development Community and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy of the East African Community. It had also incorporated strategies for disaster risk reduction, environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation into its Second National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty. Organizational structures had been reformed and new legislation adopted both in the Tanzanian mainland and in Zanzibar.

116. Lastly, stressing that his Government was fully committed to contributing towards regional and

subregional initiatives to address the underlying causes of community vulnerability to disasters, he said that Tanzania would support all efforts designed to make the world a safer place for current and future generations.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.