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

Contents

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

- (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*)
- (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*)
- (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)
- (g) Harmony with Nature (*continued*)
- (h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Hilale (Morocco), Mr. Carillo Gómez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)
(A/70/75-E/2015/55, A/70/137-E/2015/86, A/70/214, A/70/215, A/70/215/Add.1, A/70/224, A/70/228, A/70/262, A/70/291, A/70/298, A/70/422, A/70/129, A/70/131 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)
- (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)
- (c) **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** (*continued*) (A/70/282)
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** (*continued*) (A/70/230)
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** (*continued*) (A/70/230)
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** (*continued*) (A/70/230)
- (g) **Harmony with Nature** (*continued*) (A/70/268)
- (h) **United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development** (*continued*) (A/70/228)

1. **Ms. Aw** (Singapore) said that, since gaining independence in 1965, Singapore had come a long way as a result of its recognition of the importance of a competitive economy, sustainable environment, good governance and the rule of law. The Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015 outlined the national vision and plans for a more sustainable Singapore, including through the development of a zero-waste society and a

green economy, building environmentally sustainable towns and reducing reliance on private car transportation. Singapore was on track to meet or exceed the targets set out in the first such Blueprint, launched in 2009.

2. The responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development lay with each country, and measuring progress was key. The global framework of indicators should provide for a limited number of indicators, including global as well as regional, national and thematic indicators for countries to measure progress across different targets and goals, based on national circumstances and priorities. Such a framework was essential to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which must recognize that each country would implement the Agenda and measure progress in its own way.

3. Noting with satisfaction that the particular challenges and needs of small island developing States had been reflected in the 2030 Agenda, Singapore called for a revitalized global partnership that brought together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system, and other stakeholders, and mobilized all available resources. At the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, Singapore had announced the launch of a new sustainable development programme to support the 2030 Agenda, under which it would be working with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to help build capacity in urban governance and planning in cities around the world; it would also work with partners to provide training on water and sanitation solutions for countries in need.

4. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia) said that the recent severe droughts across the world served as a timely reminder of the devastating impact of the current development model. In order to ensure the implementation of the new, transformative 2030 Agenda, urgent action was required to build on the political momentum for the adoption of an ambitious, binding and universal climate agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Building the resilience of societies, economies and ecosystems was key to sustainable development. The implementation of the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was the first step in ensuring better preparedness; Columbia highlighted the importance of international cooperation to assist developing countries in that regard, as provided for in the Framework. Loss of biodiversity was continuing at an alarming rate, and with only five years of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity remaining, the international community must continue to move forward with vigour in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Emphasis should also be placed on the important role of agriculture in sustainable development, and on addressing the unique challenges affecting agricultural production, including land degradation, climate change and price volatility.

5. **Mr. Khoshroo** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country, which had already made significant efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), was committed to promoting sustainable development; a multisectoral committee on sustainable development, established in 1992, was playing a pivotal role in national efforts, including promoting environmental awareness and environmental education in schools, revamping dam-building policies, reviving endangered wetlands and preserving endangered lakes. However, Iran would face specific challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda because of its unique geography and pressure on environmental resources and biodiversity. Iran was the sixth most disaster-prone country in the world and, although it had developed effective preparedness and response capacity, it would continue to require extensive international cooperation in that area.

6. The 2030 Agenda must be underpinned by the principles of country ownership and common but differentiated responsibilities, and the implementation of its ambitious objectives should be facilitated by even more ambitious, fully inclusive and non-discriminatory measures for implementation. To that end, developed countries must undertake to support the developing countries, particularly through capacity-building, technology transfer, trade facilitation and access to financial resources. The effective operationalization of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism would also be crucial. The fight against terrorism was taking resources away from sustainable development, resulting in further poverty and environmental destruction; a regional action plan should be developed to help countries grappling with the scourge of terrorism and extremist

violence to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Lastly, a strong High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was required to provide policy guidance on sustainable development issues and support for the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

7. **Mr. Lemine** (Mauritania) said that said that climate change, in particular land degradation, desertification and drought, was hindering sustainable development and causing huge economic losses, particularly in Africa, even though African countries bore less responsibility for its impact than others.

8. Mauritania, which attached great importance to environmental governance in various areas as part of a poverty reduction strategy, was implementing a number of national policies to combat deforestation, including a green belt project for the reforestation of 2,000 hectares over a four-year period. At the regional level, Mauritania was involved in the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, which sought to address the impact of desertification and improve the livelihoods of millions of people across the continent. His country, which stood ready to cooperate at all levels in combating climate change, attached importance to the sharing of experiences and best practices in order to achieve food security.

9. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that Mozambique, which was one of the countries in Africa most vulnerable to natural disasters, had approved a strategy for disaster management and vulnerability reduction. At the institutional level, the National Institute of Disaster Management had been restructured, a national emergency operating centre had been established for monitoring and data collection, and local committees had been set up to disseminate appropriate technologies for arid and semi-arid zones. At the operational level, a number of preparedness measures were being implemented, such as simulation exercises, contingency plan development, and early warning system activation. Mozambique remained committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and was implementing a number of measures to promote its operationalization, such as deepening understanding of national disaster risk, strengthening disaster management bodies, investing in resilience mechanisms and improving response capability. Like most developing countries, Mozambique faced the challenge of mobilizing the necessary financial,

material and technical resources. It therefore called upon all stakeholders in a position to do so to support its efforts and give effect to the recommendation for States to enhance international cooperation and the provision of means of implementation to support developing countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

10. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand), said that New Zealand had a long-standing commitment to small island developing States, including those in the Pacific region, and welcomed the recognition in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the unique and particular vulnerabilities of those States in all three dimensions of sustainable development. Words must now be translated into action. Small island developing States were at the forefront of the impact of climate change, including through the increased incidence and severity of disasters and rising sea levels. Every effort must therefore be made to achieve an ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding outcome at forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference.

11. Small island developing States could be overburdened by processes and rules designed for much larger projects in larger countries, which could often add significant extra costs and cause long delays, or at worst, result in initiatives becoming inaccessible to them. Access to the resources of the Green Climate Fund was a case in point. Development actors must operate with processes that were fit for scale and could deliver timely results. Small island developing States were often neither sufficiently poor to access concessional resources nor had the scale to generate the domestic resources or investment required. Donors, multilateral institutions and development banks must therefore review their policies and allocation criteria to ensure that those States were not left behind.

12. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that political will was a prerequisite for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. He noted the important role played by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. His country had seen many of its development gains eroded as a result of the actions of extremist groups and terrorism. Infrastructure, cultural heritage and resources were being destroyed by what some were calling a moderate opposition. It was also suffering because of intervention by European countries and other States that were claiming to defend human rights. The standard of living in the country had fallen

dramatically and humanitarian programmes had been hindered. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/70/291), he said that the Syrian Arab Republic was concerned at the failure to implement resolution General Assembly resolution 69/212. His country, which had received no compensation from the Government of Israel for repairing the environmental damage, stood ready to assist the United Nations in the conduct of the study to which paragraph 4 of the resolution referred.

13. **Mr. Doucouré** (Mali) said that in the Sahel, climate change was leading to recurrent droughts, decreased soil fertility, loss of habitat and biodiversity, desertification and the silting of several major rivers, including the Niger river; at the socioeconomic level, it was giving rise to increased poverty resulting from the massive exodus of the rural population to urban areas or to countries of the North, thereby contributing to the growth of terrorist and drug trafficking networks. Mali's agriculture sector, which provided 45 per cent of GDP and employed nearly 80 per cent of the active population, had been hard hit; population growth had exacerbated the overexploitation of natural resources.

14. His Government was seeking to create a green economy that was resilient to climate change. It had taken a number of measures to that end, including signing and ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, formulating a national programme of action for climate change adaptation, and developing a national strategy for environmental financing, including mechanisms for mobilizing national and international financing, in particular from the Green Climate Fund. The environment dimension had been included in the planning process, notably in the implementation of the strategic framework for growth and poverty reduction. Action at the institutional level included the establishment of an agency for the environment and sustainable development and of a national climate change committee. His Government expressed the fervent hope that a legally binding climate agreement would be achieved at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

15. **Mr. Yagninim** (Togo), noting that climate change constituted a grave threat to development and poverty reduction, particularly given its impact on agriculture, said that his Government had developed a project on adapting agricultural production to climate change

which was linked to the national programme for agricultural investment and food security. Three environmental and social management tools had been developed, namely: an environmental and social management framework, a pest and pesticide management plan, and a resettlement policy. His Government was also implementing several initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable rural populations, especially small producers, and on essential natural resources, including by developing and disseminating adapted varieties of seeds, promoting integrated soil fertility management and small-scale irrigation, restoring degraded ecosystems and raising awareness of the impact of climate change. His Government was also strengthening a number of other activities through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Hydraulics, including developing the wood-energy value chain with assistance from the Government of Germany. The 1,000 farmers' field schools which had been established constituted one of the main successes in combating climate change and protecting the environment and would help to build capacity among vulnerable producers for the adoption of environmentally friendly and climate resilient practices. Togo was planning to establish a national programme on renewable energy, to develop sustainable agriculture and ecotourism, and to promote ecologically rational waste management.

16. **Mr. Nkoloji** (Botswana) said that it was indisputable that current consumption and production patterns threatened to outstrip the planet's capacity to continue sustaining life. The 2030 Agenda was the best way to achieve poverty eradication and sustainable economic growth; Botswana welcomed its recognition of the need to promote a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. While each country had the primary responsibility for defining its own economic and social development path, and for formulating its own policies and strategies based on its national priorities and capacity for implementation, actions taken at the national level could not be sustained in the absence of a supportive global environment; trade, finance, investment, technology and official development assistance (ODA) also played a critical role.

17. Climate change was threatening to reverse development gains already made, since countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, lacked the means for adaptation and mitigation. More must be done to

assist vulnerable countries susceptible to drought and desertification, especially those in semi-arid and arid areas as well as landlocked developing countries. Botswana looked forward to the successful conclusion of the Paris Climate Change Conference and of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. His country remained committed to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which would contribute greatly in dealing with the enormous losses caused by disasters. Landlocked developing countries would require special assistance to achieve sustainable development. Botswana therefore called for the full implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and for the provision of technology transfer, capacity-building and financial support.

18. **Mr. Sarufa** (Papua New Guinea) said that the challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda lay in ensuring national ownership and leadership, while providing global partnership support and ensuring the collective actions needed to achieve the ambitious goals and to address existing global systemic weaknesses, including in the economic and financial architecture. Also integral to success was the further strengthening of the United Nations system to ensure effective implementation of national development priorities, as in the case of the One-UN-Office concept piloted in Papua New Guinea. The 2030 Agenda should be integrated throughout the work of the General Assembly and not siloed off into the various Committees. It was also crucial for the high-level political forum on sustainable development to fulfil its mandate, which should be informed by reviews carried out at the national and regional levels, learning from the lessons of its predecessor in order to ensure avoiding the same pitfalls. While the SAMOA Pathway was the pivot for the sustainable development of small island developing States, the importance of integrating the priorities of small island developing States into all streams of sustainable development at the multilateral and bilateral levels could not be overemphasized, particularly in the context of the efforts to revitalize the work of the United Nations system.

19. The main drivers of climate change had to be addressed if sustainable development was to succeed. The Fijian initiative for a triennial conference on oceans and seas deserved support, and could feed into

the High-level Political Forum's review and follow-up process on goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals concerning the conservation and sustainable use of the seas, oceans and marine resources.

20. The 2014 national strategy for responsible sustainable development served as the platform for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Papua New Guinea. National sustainable development must not erode environmental capital or compromise future generations. Strategic natural assets must be appropriately managed, with foreign capital investment used to strengthen their sustainability instead of decimating them. Individuals must be empowered to take full responsibility for improving their livelihoods; the importance of a healthy, well-educated population was recognized in that regard, as was the need to ensure human dignity, fundamental rights, accountable institutions and the rule of law.

21. **Mr. Dzonzi** (Malawi) said that an issue of critical importance to developing countries was how the 2030 Agenda, which built upon the achievements of the MDGs while at the same time presenting a new approach to global development challenges, would be implemented. Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would depend on the availability of adequate resources, which could not be mobilized by Governments alone. The Development Cooperation Strategy for Malawi 2014-2018 provided for government ownership of the national development agenda and alignment of donor assistance and systems with national strategies. At the same time, greater coordination of financial support from its development partners would improve the achievement of development outcomes and facilitate the attainment of the Goals.

22. Remarkable progress had been made in Malawi in connection with a number of MDGs, including in reducing child mortality, combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development. However, despite an economic growth rate of 3 per cent in the current year, Malawi remained one of the poorest countries in the world, with over 50 per cent of its population living on less than 1 dollar a day. As one of the few countries to have participated in consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, Malawi was according top priority to poverty eradication and rural development, and was committed

to incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development strategy.

23. Malawi reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2030 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. Under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, countries like Malawi could receive enhanced ODA which could make a difference in catalysing growth and development. His delegation therefore called on all relevant stakeholders to ensure that least developed countries and landlocked developing countries received the necessary support from the international community so that no one was left behind.

24. **Ms. Jonsdottir** (Iceland) said that her country was a strong proponent of sustainable energy and continued to contribute to knowledge dissemination, technology transfer and investment in the field of geothermal energy, including through the United Nations University programme in Iceland and in cooperation with international institutions. The importance of sustainable energy in ending extreme poverty, tackling inequalities and facilitating climate adaptation and mitigation was widely recognized, and she commended the work of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

25. A scientific approach must be taken in connection with Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, and on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The legal framework for the sustainable management of the oceans was firmly grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and its implementation at the local and regional levels was key.

26. Land degradation and desertification disproportionately affected the poorest and most marginalized populations and merited urgent attention, particularly as approximately one third of the world's arable land was degraded as a result of unsustainable land management, including the use of pesticides, monocropping, overgrazing and deforestation, as well as climate change. She hoped that the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification would produce

benchmarks for the achievement of a land degradation-neutral world, and that its output would be used to highlight the inextricable link between land degradation and climate change at the Paris Climate Change Conference. Lastly, noting that sustainable development could not be achieved without the economic and legal empowerment of women, she called for continued action on gender mainstreaming.

27. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that his country had made significant progress in implementing the MDGs and had joined the ranks of lower-middle-income countries. However, despite the steady economic growth it had experienced for the previous 14 years, Mongolia had not succeeded in halving the poverty level, although poverty had been reduced by one third. That experience demonstrated that high economic growth did not necessarily enable everyone to benefit from economic opportunities and social policies. Poverty eradication would therefore continue to be the overarching objective for Mongolia's sustainable development.

28. The conceptual basis of the intended nationally determined contribution that Mongolia had recently developed in connection with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change lay in the National Green Development Policy approved by Parliament in 2014. That Policy focused on key sectoral action plans at the national level, including in the energy and agriculture sectors, and included specific indicators for measuring progress in its implementation.

29. Mongolia, whose traditional nomadic culture was based on living in harmony with nature, was facing a number of major environmental challenges, including the effects of climate change, increased incidence of natural disasters, water scarcity and land degradation. It would support the International Decade on Water for Sustainable Development and recognized the importance of establishing national coordination mechanisms to foster implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Mongolia hoped that the Paris Climate Change Conference, whose outcome was critical to the future of the Sustainable Development Goals, would culminate in a new climate agreement that gave due consideration to the challenges faced by developing countries, in particular landlocked developing countries. Global development cooperation and partnership would play a significant role in supporting

the implementation of 2030 Agenda. Mongolia supported a renewed global partnership, and considered that implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 would help those countries to overcome their vulnerabilities and build resilience.

30. **Ms. Hua Ye** (China) said that the international community should use the historic 2030 Agenda as a new starting point to translate commitments into action for equitable, open, comprehensive and innovative sustainable development. Implementation, which must begin without delay, should be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities; countries should retain full national policy space and should be encouraged to incorporate the Agenda into their national development strategies in accordance with their specific situations.

31. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should play a coordinating role, and the United Nations system, agencies, funds and programmes should be encouraged to adopt further concerted measures on international sustainable development cooperation. Comprehensive development partnerships must be established, as should favourable trade, investment and financial environments to help developing countries benefit from the global value chain. Developed countries should honour their ODA commitments and increase their support to developing countries in such areas as technology transfer and capacity-building. Developing countries should be encouraged to strengthen South-South cooperation. The international community must strive to achieve a comprehensive, robust and balanced agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference, taking into account the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Developed countries, in particular, should step up their efforts in the area of emissions reduction, and further commitments should be made with respect to financial and technical support.

32. China's commitment to lifting 70 million people out of poverty over the next five years would give impetus to global poverty eradication and constituted an important step towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Her country had already submitted its intended nationally determined contribution and published the means of implementation. Its national strategy for economic and social development embodied a responsible approach to climate change,

and CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP were now lower than 2005 levels. Furthermore, China attached importance to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and was actively implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Education for sustainable development had been incorporated into the national education strategy.

33. China, which was actively promoting the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, had long provided technical and financial assistance to small island developing States, least developed countries, and other developing countries, including in Africa. The Chinese President had recently announced a series of important measures to promote international development cooperation and the achievement of sustainable development, including establishing a number of funds, increasing investment and exempting the debt of a number of outstanding intergovernmental interest-free loans owed by least developed countries. China would also be implementing a variety of projects in developing countries over the next five years, including the establishment of an international development knowledge centre and an academy for South-South cooperation and development.

34. **Ms. Butts** (United States of America) said that the Committee's deliberations on sustainable development should be guided by three principles. First, in aligning its work with the 2030 Agenda, the Committee should prioritize actions offering the greatest impact, avoid duplicative resolutions, and defer to other processes where appropriate. Second, the Committee's efforts must resonate with the broad community of stakeholders whose expertise and knowledge would be leveraged in connection with the 2030 Agenda. It should engage in an open, flexible and results-oriented discussion across all three pillars of sustainable development, encouraging meaningful collaboration and empowering all parties to contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Third, the breadth of the 2030 Agenda was a testament to collective ambition, and the focus should be on achieving results on the commonly defined set of objectives, not on expanding mandates.

35. **Mr. Scappini Ricciardi** (Paraguay) said that his Government was committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, as well as other instruments. It called for a

strengthened partnership for sustainable development, and highlighted the importance of ODA in enhancing national capacities for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data. His delegation advocated a multidimensional approach to development and poverty and called for balanced consideration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. It endorsed the policies and action highlighted by Zambia on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, and welcomed initiatives to promote sustainable tourism, which was a tool for the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and an effective means of promoting the service economy and eradicating poverty.

36. Paraguay attached particular importance to preserving the integrity and diversity of the natural heritage, and advocated the use of renewable sources of clean energy. It was seeking to promote a meaningful dialogue on the impact of climate change, particularly on the most vulnerable populations and developing countries, and hoped that a serious political agreement would be adopted to mitigate, alleviate and reverse the devastating consequences of climate change at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference. During the current session of the General Assembly, the international community should engage in a detailed analysis of the effects of climate change, in particular drought, desertification and natural disasters, on landlocked developing countries, and work towards the development of effective measures for mitigation and building resilience.

37. **Ms. Jemuovic** (Serbia) said that while countries were responsible for their own development, partnerships between a wide range of stakeholders, as well as joint efforts from all segments of society, were required if the Sustainable Development Goals were to be achieved. Noting the importance of accountability, she said that countries must invest in measuring the extent to which their commitments were being realized; the Committee, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council would lead the process in monitoring the achievement of the Goals.

38. Although progress had been made in attaining the MDGs, there were omnipresent challenges and uncertainties that needed to be overcome in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures constituted a priority, as a prerequisite for achieving global

sustainability. The effects of natural disasters had a negative impact on the fragile economic situation in South-East Europe and complicated poverty eradication efforts. Her country, which had announced its intended nationally determined contribution and had committed to a 9.8 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, attached great importance to the Paris Climate Change Conference and to measures to limit the global average temperature increase to below 2°. It also welcomed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, having been hit by devastating floods in 2014.

39. The international community must not disregard its obligation to support the countries most in need, including landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States. Since sustainable development could not be achieved without peace and stability, efforts must be made to promote the rule of law, provide justice for all and build effective national and international institutions. Culture and education played an important role in that regard. Her Government, which had taken a number of important steps in such areas as economic reform, infrastructure development, sustainable energy use and environmental protection, attached high priority to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It would be establishing an intergovernmental body to monitor and review achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and elaborate a new development strategy.

40. **Ms. Strickland-Simonet** (Samoa) said that Samoa welcomed the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda of Goal 13, on combating climate change — a prerequisite for sustainable development. Implementing all the other Goals would contribute, directly or indirectly, to addressing the impact of climate change. Her Government hoped that an ambitious agreement addressing the concerns of small island developing States, including a loss and damage mechanism, would be achieved at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

41. The recognition by multiple United Nations conferences that small island developing States remained a special case for sustainable development must be reflected in the allocation of resources for implementation. Follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway was critical, and the relevant resolution should provide for the launch of a partnership framework that included a committee composed of small island developing States and their partners and well-organized, action-

oriented dialogues. That framework should also provide opportunities for additional partnerships to fully implement the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation. Samoa looked forward to the completion of the Joint Inspection Unit's comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which remained of central importance, should devote at least one day to following up on the fulfilment of the sustainable development aspirations of small island developing States.

42. Noting the growing importance of sustainable tourism for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth, she said that Samoa was one of a number of Member States proposing a draft resolution to declare 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. Samoa was very supportive of initiatives such as World Tsunami Day and a triennial conference on oceans and seas.

43. **Ms. Özgür** (Turkey) said that, as Turkey had learned from its own experience, disasters could result in severe setbacks for social and economic development. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was one of the milestone documents adopted in a critical year for sustainable development, and its implementation was essential for disaster reduction efforts. Building resilience had emerged as a key action area in the consultation process for the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul in 2016 and would be discussed in connection with reducing vulnerability and managing risk, one of the major themes of the Summit.

44. Coherent and consistent policies at the global level, together with international and regional cooperation, were required to combat desertification and drought, which adversely affected countries in all regions of the world. Her country, which had been implementing a comprehensive strategy in that regard, recognized the importance of dams and reservoirs in regulating river flows. Turkey considered transboundary water resources as a means of cooperation, and strongly supported their fair, equitable and reasonable utilization. It respected the water needs of its neighbours and the dams and reservoirs it had constructed on national and transboundary rivers enabled her country to release a sufficient amount of water to its neighbours, even during severe droughts. The twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to

the Convention to Combat Desertification, which Turkey was currently hosting, would provide an opportunity for a dialogue on cooperation to combat desertification and achieve a land degradation-neutral world. She called on countries to join the Ankara Initiative, which her Government would be launching at the Conference.

45. **Ms. Castro Mazariegos** (Guatemala) said that her country would be monitoring closely the review and follow-up mechanisms of the High-level Political Forum and the creation of synergies between the three dimensions of sustainable development. In order to achieve sustainable development, it was essential to eradicate poverty and hunger; a broader view of sustainable development was needed that took into account the great challenges faced by countries in eradicating poverty in all its dimensions.

46. As the Global Climate Risk Index 2015 showed, Guatemala was one of the countries most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Only recently, a landslide caused by torrential rains had destroyed 125 homes and left some 280 people dead; the rains had been preceded by a 12-week heatwave which had caused serious damage to agricultural production. While her country supported the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, their objectives could not be achieved through the actions of Governments alone; the involvement of all sectors of society and of the United Nations system was required.

47. Noting the contribution of all types of forests to sustainable development, she said that Guatemala was committed to combating deforestation and forest degradation at the national and international levels, and would continue to promote trade in products from forests that were sustainably managed and lawfully exploited. New and additional resources must be mobilized from all sources for the sustainable management of all types of forests, and measures should be taken to build the capacity of countries in accessing relevant funding and using it effectively.

48. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that sustainable development was much more than the eight sub-items currently under discussion, cutting across the entire spectrum of issues taken up by the Committee and even linking with issues in the peace, security and human rights pillars of the United Nations system. The Committee must ensure that the 2030 Agenda was

reflected in the methods and substance of its work, and avoid the pitfall of resorting to cosmetic changes, such as merely replacing the MDGs with Sustainable Development Goals, as a means of updating resolutions from previous sessions.

49. The incidence of natural disasters around the world highlighted the need to mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework into the 2030 Agenda. The Philippines, which shared some of the vulnerabilities of small island developing States to climate-related extreme events, echoed the call for implementation of the modes of action set out in the SAMOA Pathway to strengthen resilience and adaptation capacity. It was currently Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, a cross-regional platform which had recently launched the Vulnerable Twenty Group, whose members were calling for more action and investment concerning climate resilience and low-emissions.

50. The Philippines, which faced desertification and land degradation due to soil erosion, natural disasters and agricultural expansion, had developed a National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought 2010-2020 and was seeking to increase the allocation of resources for land degradation, particularly from the Global Environment Facility, to empower local communities and indigenous people and to address drought mitigation as a priority. Her country strongly supported recommendations concerning the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, notably on the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology for conservation efforts, fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, expanding the field of biotechnology, and protecting traditional knowledge, innovation and practices.

51. Ownership of the 2030 Agenda by all members of society, particularly children and youth, was essential for its success. Education was critical in that regard. Her Government therefore called for the accelerated implementation of the five priority action areas of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. It also fully supported the draft resolution on World Tsunami Day and would welcome the designation of 2017 as the International Year for Sustainable Tourism.

52. **Ms. Namgyel** (Bhutan) said that the main question at hand was how to ensure the effective

implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly for groups of countries in special situations. Country level implementation was of great importance. Countries should develop ambitious national strategies with an intergenerational time frame of at least 15 years, identifying strategic areas of intervention and specific investment plans. The efficacy of such strategies and plans, during both their formulation and their implementation, depended on predictable financial, technical and policy support from the international community, in particular for least developed countries. Emphasis was needed on the measures required at the country level to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, rather than on broad support at the global level. Specifically, financing for development, particularly ODA commitments, must be disaggregated at the country level and, to ensure predictability, they needed to be deconstructed so that they could be incorporated in national budgets for financing national development strategies and short, medium and long-term investment plans. Also of importance was the mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system, and the strengthening of the United Nations system to help countries implement and review the 2030 Agenda.

53. The concept of harmony with nature, which lay at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, resonated strongly with Bhutan's development concept, predicated on "Gross National Happiness", that sought to strike a balance between economic growth, environmental preservation and respect for nature. While the defining challenge of climate change and the related threat of loss of biological diversity must be addressed, she called for an integrated approach to sustainable development, noting the need for action on the economic dimension. In many developing countries, most of the funding for activities relating to biodiversity came from domestic resources. Accordingly, increasing resources to assist developing countries, in particular countries in special situations, in enhancing the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans was of critical importance to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In closing, she highlighted the importance of education for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, drawing particular attention to Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education.

54. **Mr. Abdou** (Niger) said that an integrated approach and the firm commitment of all stakeholders were required if the overarching objective of the 2030

Agenda, namely the eradication of poverty, was to be achieved. Other priority areas for development, such as health, education, environmental preservation, economic growth, peace and stability and the advancement of women, must also be resolutely pursued. Commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda relating to ODA, technology transfer, aid-for-trade, capacity-building, and strengthening resilience must be honoured, and the global partnership, which had been revitalized, must be strengthened to ensure that no States, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, were left behind.

55. Climate change was a serious threat to global ecosystems and one of the greatest emerging challenges for Niger, where agriculture and livestock rearing occupied 80 per cent of the population. His Government was forced to make considerable investments in the protection and restoration of land, combating desertification and loss of diversity, and adaptation and resilience. All stakeholders should strive to ensure the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as of the four strategic and five operational objectives of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018). His delegation also hoped that the Paris Climate Change Conference would culminate in binding commitments on curbing global warming, mobilizing adequate financial resources to support action to promote resilience and adaptation, and fostering the transfer of environmentally friendly technology.

56. Niger had long been committed to sustainable development, and had established an institutional framework that would enable the 2030 Agenda to be integrated into the main plans and objectives for national development, including through the national environmental plan for sustainable development, as well as programmes on climate change, biological diversity, desertification and management of natural resources. A long-term strategy for sustainable development and inclusive growth up to the year 2045 and associated economic and social development plans were in process of being developed. Tangible progress was being made at the legislative, regulatory and institutional levels in promoting the achievement of sustainable development in the country, with the concept of sustainable development having been reflected in the country's 2010 Constitution. National legislation was being brought in line with international

instruments and Niger was endeavouring to strengthen democracy and the rule of law and build strong institutions which would enhance social services and the effectiveness of development efforts.

57. **Mr. Di Luca** (Argentina) said that the 2030 Agenda, to which Argentina was firmly committed, must be implemented from a human rights perspective, through a detailed and consistent plan of action, with reliable and transparent follow-up mechanisms. Joint efforts were required, taking into account the historical responsibilities reflected in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Sustainable development could never be achieved without full respect for all human rights, including those of the most vulnerable. Argentina was pleased that the gender perspective was not only the subject of a specific Goal, but also mainstreamed into all the other Goals, since an integrated approach to gender inequality and the promotion of full political, economic and social participation was essential to achieving a more egalitarian society.

58. Balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development was essential, and an integrated approach must be taken with regard to the protection, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems. Urgent action from the international community was required to tackle the challenge of climate change, without losing sight of the priorities of development, poverty eradication and income redistribution in developing countries. The major responsibility for climate action, not only in terms of mitigation but also with respect to the provision of means of implementation lay with developed countries. All aspects of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action must be addressed. The agreement to be reached at the Paris Climate Change Conference should strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and respect the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity. Member States must meet their commitments in terms of climate financing, including to the Green Climate Fund. Developed countries must honour their long-standing commitments, including their repeated undertaking to provide 0.7 per cent of GNP as ODA; failure to meet that target had compromised numerous initiatives which would have contributed to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication. In contrast, Argentina, along with other countries of the

South had intensified South-South cooperation, as a response to common development challenges.

59. His Government recognized the vital role of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and of the regional commissions in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee also had a role to play, and should avoid duplication and maximize synergies with other forums. Argentina considered that the process of the MDGs had been a success, and had demonstrated that when there was political will, goals could be achieved and the international community could act together for the common good.

60. **Ms. Calder** (Switzerland) said that the Committee should reorganize its agenda to ensure that all issues pertaining to sustainable development were addressed in a more coherent manner. Furthermore, the General Assembly Committees, the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should share their roles and responsibilities in a pragmatic manner to ensure an effective and coherent follow-up mechanism to monitor implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

61. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 must be translated into action in order to strengthen the resilience of individuals and communities. Disaster risk reduction was an essential component of sustainable development and a sine qua non of eradicating poverty. The consequences of disasters were being exacerbated by a number of factors, including climate change, population growth, expansion of infrastructure and environmental degradation. Humanitarian response mechanisms had reached their limits; the focus needed to shift from disaster management to disaster prevention and preparation in order to build the resilience of the most vulnerable individuals and communities. Families, communities and nations, as well as all sectors, public, private and academic, and civil society, must be involved in that undertaking; all those actors could potentially create new disaster risks or exacerbate existing risks, but they were all also part of the solution and could contribute their experience and expertise. In that regard Switzerland welcomed the reference in the Sendai Framework to the role and participation of women.

62. The continuing investment made by the United Nations system must also be based on a comprehensive

understanding of the risks, and the United Nations must take advantage of the momentum generated through the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to ensure consistency. Switzerland called for better governance in the United Nations system with a view to ensuring consistency and improving coordination. It was necessary to break down, once and for all, the division between development and humanitarian action and actors at all levels, and include funding for disaster risk reduction in both the humanitarian assistance and development agendas in order to preserve investments for sustainable development.

63. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that sustainable development issues should constitute the core of development initiatives at all levels. Nepal, whose September 2015 Constitution had placed sustainability at the centre of national efforts for peace, development and prosperity, had been incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into its development plans, policies and programmes. Means of implementation, such as those set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Agenda 21, were indispensable for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, whose attainment must be based on the principles of universal human rights, inclusiveness and social justice, with a focus on poverty eradication and inequality. The experience with the largely successful MDGs had shown that timely implementation was the key to the success of all development efforts.

64. Urgent action was required to tackle the impact of climate change, which had increased the cost of development and caused such problems as desertification and the loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage. Nepal looked forward to the achievement at the Paris Climate Change Conference of a legally binding agreement that took into consideration the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, equity and respective capabilities. The Green Climate Fund was vital for the least developed countries.

65. As a country with 8 of the 14 highest peaks of the world as well as very fragile tectonic landscapes, Nepal was aware of the hardships faced by mountainous countries across the world. The impact of natural disasters could be significantly reduced by

using available technology. Nepal underlined the 13 guiding principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and also called for action on the Framework's seven global targets and four priorities for action, with a particular focus on disaster-prone countries like Nepal. A similar level of collaboration was required to conserve and promote mountain ecosystems. His Government was grateful for the support it had received from the international community in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that had struck the country earlier in 2015; it had developed a comprehensive reconstruction plan in line with its aspiration to graduate from the least developed category by 2022. His Government also recognized the importance of clean and renewable energy and was seeking to exploit the country's immense hydropower potential. Under the new, 2015 Constitution, sustainability was at the centre of efforts for peace, development and prosperity. He emphasized that support provided through the United Nations should be more integrated and coordinated; the United Nations system should be made fit for purpose through the promotion of system-wide coherence.

66. **Mr. Gone** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his country had participated in all the major conferences shaping the history of sustainable development. Its 2012 national development plan set out sectoral guidance, including in the national climate change programme, which sought to coordinate, propose and promote measures and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining the country's capacity for economic growth and development. Côte d'Ivoire was taking a number of steps to build resilience, such as ensuring consistency between national planning and the management of rural areas; developing agriculture and the forestry sector, including through the sustainable development of forests and the improvement of forestry governance; and promoting sustainable practices to improve agricultural production capacity. It was implementing a proactive energy efficiency policy, including renewable energy, and promoting waste management and recycling.

67. Noting some of the adverse effects of climate change in his country in recent decades, he said that adaptation measures that had been taken or were being planned were serving to build human, institutional, technical and financial capacity and promote technology transfer with a view to improving agricultural, livestock and fisheries output, and

combating deforestation, land degradation and coastal erosion. Those measures were expected to achieve a significant reduction in poverty and enhance employment and social inclusion, among other benefits. His country, which hoped that ambitious and binding commitments would be reached at the Paris Climate Change Conference, called on the international community to meet its commitments in terms of resource mobilization, and turn rhetoric into action.

68. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that the future of the planet would depend on the action taken on climate change. All countries, irrespective of their development status, were aware that action must be taken to stop polluting and overexploiting the Earth's resources, protect endangered species and transform patterns of production and consumption with a view to achieving carbon neutrality. His Government hoped that a legally binding agreement would be reached at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference, and called for particular attention to be given to low-lying States that were already losing some of their land because of climate change. The international community must make clear commitments with respect to the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies and institutional capacity-building for adaptation, mitigation and emissions reduction. His Government had already prepared its intended nationally determined contribution and stood ready to pay \$2 billion of the estimated \$30 billion required for greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation in Benin over the period 2016-2030.

69. **Ms. Bruell-Melchior** (Monaco) said that Monaco was committed to the full implementation of Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals since the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources was essential for current and future generations. It supported the convening of triennial conferences on oceans, in order to assess progress made and identify the additional efforts needed. The world's oceans must continue to be a source of economic and social benefits for coastal communities but they were above all the condition sine qua non for life on earth. Although all countries were affected by the changes to oceans and seas, small island developing States were particularly vulnerable to phenomena such as rising sea levels, ocean acidification and loss of habitat, as well as the pernicious effects of economic and industrial activity

on fish stocks. The SAMOA Pathway provided an essential road map in that regard.

70. Monaco's international cooperation efforts were focused on projects which directly benefited small island developing States in such areas as climate change adaptation, preservation of biodiversity, access to drinking water, development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building. It had also been involved for a number of years in raising the international community's awareness of human actions that were threatening entire segments of marine biodiversity and would welcome increased international scientific collaboration on protecting marine mammals.

71. Monaco, which attached great importance to the Convention on Biological Diversity, had hosted an international experts' meeting in June 2015 on Antarctica and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which had focused on the impact of fisheries, tourism and scientific activities on biodiversity in Antarctica and the southern ocean. Her Government recognized the importance of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and of multi-stakeholder partnerships, public-private partnerships and innovative modes of financing in facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In closing, she said that Monaco would support the designation of World Tsunami Day.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.