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Summary record of the 33rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 25 November 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Logar (Slovenia)

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

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions
(continued)

(b) International financial system and development
(continued) (A/C.2/70/L.36)

Draft resolution on financial inclusion for sustainable development (A/C.2/70/L.36)

1. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.36 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was intended to fill a gap in the agenda of the Second Committee and align its work on issues pertaining to financial inclusion, in accordance with the prominence that financial inclusion enjoyed in the new universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (continued)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (continued)
(A/C.2/70/L.39)

Draft resolution on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/C.2/70/L.39)

2. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.39 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that report of the Secretary-General (A/70/230) and the recommendations contained therein provided the basis for updating the draft resolution. Reflecting the adoption of both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, the draft resolution also stressed the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity when integrating those instruments into national implementation plans.

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (continued) (A/C.2/70/L.35)

Draft resolution on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/C.2/70/L.35)

3. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.35 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence
(continued)

(b) Science and technology for development
(continued) (A/C.2/70/L.40)

Draft resolution on science and technology for development (A/C.2/70/L.40)

4. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.40 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(d) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (continued) (A/C.2/70/L.38)

Draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/C.2/70/L.38)

5. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.38 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 135: Programme planning

6. **The Chair**, recalling that the Committee had decided to allocate agenda item 135 to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly in order to enhance discussions on the evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring of reports, said that the Secretariat had informed him that no matters required the Committee's action under that item. He took it that the Committee decided that no action was required under agenda item 135.

7. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 120: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (continued)

8. **The Chair** said that the challenge of revitalization consisted of reviewing the Committee's working methods, the organization of its agenda and the relevance and impact of its work. Above all, the Committee must discuss how it could continue to provide policy guidance in support of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits.

9. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States as well as Andorra, said that while a general debate on revitalization within the United Nations was paramount, a specific debate relevant to the Second Committee should also be held. It was in

the interest of all that the Committee regained the relevance and perspective it deserved in fostering sustainable development. The transformative 2030 Agenda would guide development work on the ground as well as work at the global level. A successful outcome from the Committee would be determined by how delegations, large and small, managed to work together collectively. It would therefore be necessary to examine the Committee's working methods pragmatically and to discuss matters such as adhering to deadlines for the submission and the finalization of resolutions; avoiding the proliferation of resolutions at the sub-item level; the merging or clustering of resolutions, wherever possible; and the biennialization and triennialization of resolutions.

10. Seven resolutions containing substantive new proposals had been submitted during the previous week alone, and five remained to be submitted, even though the Committee was six working days away from the deadline for achieving consensus. In addition, negotiations on a number of draft resolutions had been complicated by the language choices made by the drafter, which often did not fully reflect the language agreed in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. He therefore urged Member States to submit exclusively procedural resolutions adapted from past texts, which contained only the necessary updates and avoided new controversial items. Member States should also consider withdrawing their texts, if reasonable efforts to produce consensus did not bear fruit in time to meet the deadline.

11. **Ms. Amadeo** (United States of America), speaking also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland, said that the current exhaustion of the negotiators attested to the urgent need to reform the Committee's working methods. Following the notable successes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, it would be an unfortunate end to an otherwise successful year if the Second Committee were unable to conclude its work in a timely manner. As there was no longer sufficient time for further negotiations, she called on Member States to agree on procedural updates and to address any substantive issues at the following session. Going forward, the Committee must engage in a realistic discussion on its priorities in the light of its limited resources and time: it could not have an ever-expanding list of resolutions and expect to finish on time.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.