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Chair: Mr. Krapp (Vice-Chair) (Germany)

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In the absence of Mr. Logar (Slovenia), Mr. Krapp (Germany), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 27: Towards global partnerships
(A/70/296)

1. **Ms. Kingo** (Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact Office), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector (A/70/296), said that the report reflected the progress made by the United Nations in achieving organizational and development goals through collaboration with the private sector.

2. Since the launch of the United Nations Global Compact over 15 years ago, significant progress had been made. With over 13,000 signatories in nearly 170 countries, the Global Compact was the largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative in the world. Through dialogue, learning and partnerships, it had built strong support across all regions of the world and had redeveloped the United Nations-Business Action Hub to enhance cooperation between the private sector and United Nations entities.

3. The United Nations Global Compact would continue to mainstream responsible business practices and partnerships that advanced the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. **Ms. Coye-Felson** (Belize), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the understanding of global partnerships had evolved in the light of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals and it was recognized that a more integrated and inclusive approach, as reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was needed. The global partnership for sustainable development was led by Governments but required contributions from other stakeholders, and the policies implemented at various levels should support sustained collaboration in line with national priorities and objectives and the overarching sustainable development agenda. Adequate support for the implementation of those Agendas was therefore needed.

5. Public-private collaborations should secure a balanced and positive outcome and ensure that new global players fulfilled their share of responsibilities.

The follow-up to sustainable development commitments should similarly capture the results of those types of collaboration. CARICOM took note of the Secretary-General's suggestions for a systemic approach and institutional strengthening, and welcomed the initiatives of the Global Compact geared towards providing tools for monitoring private sector commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. While many United Nations entities provided information on partnerships on their websites, the level of information disclosed online varied. System-wide reporting on partnerships and their results would therefore be a step forward. The Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector should be improved and reporting models should be standardized and applied more widely.

6. The cooperation framework built by Member States had fostered global partnerships, including engagement with multiple stakeholders, but that framework still lacked an agreement on a climate change regime. Only a unanimously agreed global partnership to safeguard the planet for present and future generations would demonstrate a commitment to transformation. Accordingly, all stakeholders should work to conclude an ambitious climate change agreement in Paris.

7. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that genuine partnerships would be key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by harnessing the potential of Governments, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders, and by mobilizing financial resources, expertise and technology. Public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships would be key to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, and the United Nations would play an important role in those partnerships, which should be based on the principles of national ownership, transparency and accountability in addition to being specific to national contexts. Partnerships with the private sector were crucial but reporting on partnership activities should be comprehensive to avoid hindering transparency and accountability. Small island developing States therefore looked forward to the operationalization of the partnership framework, provided for in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, which would review

existing partnerships and encourage new ones. The United Nations should continue to encourage public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, although they could not replace or offset official development assistance (ODA).

8. **Ms. Chanda** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the group of landlocked developing countries, said that the private sector would be critical for programme implementation and resource mobilization. As a group of countries with special challenges and vulnerabilities, the landlocked developing countries required the establishment of reliable transit transport systems to reduce trade costs and increase their competitiveness; greater productive capacities and entrepreneurship; more resilience to climate change and other shocks; and financial and capacity enhancement in the areas of transport and energy. Enhanced partnerships were critical to meeting those needs but ODA remained a key resource and stronger partnerships with development partners were required. South-South cooperation partnerships, especially in the areas of technology transfers, capacity-building and infrastructure development, were also important for landlocked developing countries. As the private sector was a potential source of investment, landlocked developing countries needed to build their domestic private sector. They were also ready to work with the private sector through the Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport and the Private Sector Partnership of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

9. **Ms. Tan** (Singapore), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda would depend on a revitalized global partnership involving Governments, the private sector, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, and mobilizing all available resources.

10. A central role would continue to be played by ODA for least developed countries and small island developing States, in particular, which urgently needed continued and increased support. In that respect, developed countries needed to lead those efforts and fulfil their commitments, and ramp up support to developing countries, especially those most in need. He noted that while South-South and triangular cooperation played an increasingly important role, it was no substitute for public funding from developed countries.

11. There was also a need for new multi-stakeholder partnerships with a broad range of actors, notably from the private sector, which had been playing an increasingly prominent role in pursuing sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels. In that regard, the 2030 Agenda and related intergovernmental processes and agreements were a historic opportunity for the United Nations to expand the scope and impact of private sector engagement, including through its Global Compact. ASEAN agreed that measures were needed to strengthen partnership accountability and transparency, embracing holistic and integrated approaches, and advancing system-wide collaboration in order to strengthen coherence and build capacity.

12. Partnerships were of great importance in the context of national development and collective efforts to build the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015, and the private sector could foster interdependence among Southeast Asian economies and beyond, as well as between the greater region and the global economy.

13. Public-private partnerships in the ASEAN region could serve as an innovative financing mechanism to help realize its master plan on connectivity. In that context, a framework of principles for such partnerships had been drawn up in 2014, addressing a policy and organization framework for private sector participation; project selection, development and implementation; affordability and budget transparency; and transnational infrastructure connectivity. That would help Governments to implement effective public-private partnership frameworks for the creation of a predictable and efficient environment for infrastructure investment, and address issues related to cross-border regional infrastructural projects. ASEAN was also working to strengthen public-private partnerships through projects, which included guidelines prepared by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, and a database on risk mitigation instruments. Progress had also been made in promoting small and medium enterprises under a strategic action plan for their development. The relevant plan for 2016-2025 focused on the vision of globally competitive and innovative enterprises.

14. Turning to the matter of corporate social responsibility, ASEAN had set up a dedicated network in 2010 to help build the capacity of companies in the region, especial small and medium enterprises. In addition, a responsible business forum had been held in

Kuala Lumpur, gathering stakeholders from the private and public sectors and civil society to engage in high-level dialogues and interactive consultations. The ASEAN Vision 2020 should also help build capacity and foster collective action in that regard. At the same time, ASEAN was firmly of the view that development partnerships with the private sector should fully comply with countries' development priorities, and that the private sector must be committed to the highest standards of business ethics.

15. A better enabling environment at all levels was needed to foster greater private flows. In that respect, Governments needed to focus on implementing clear, stable investment frameworks and environments conducive to scaling up investments. The United Nations and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund must help ensure that the global economic framework remained conducive to growth amidst the ongoing economic uncertainties. International organizations such as the United Nations, in consultation with developing countries, should also help put in place coordinated programmes that fostered developing countries' capacity to be an effective part of the global economy, and reap the benefits of globalization and the knowledge revolution.

16. Financing for the transformative 2030 Agenda needed to come from a range of sources and include innovative sources, beyond public and private financing. National ownership was key, but new, meaningful partnerships that complemented a revitalized global partnership were also important.

17. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that significant progress had been made over several years in building partnerships, particularly with the diverse private sector, ranging from microenterprises to cooperatives to multinationals. His delegation appreciated the past efforts of the private sector to combat climate change, and invited all relevant stakeholders to strengthen their involvement in the context of the forthcoming twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. All private sector actors must be encouraged

to commit to respecting and supporting the agreed values of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

18. Lastly, he introduced draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.24](#), entitled "Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners", on behalf of all States members of the European Union.

19. **Mr. González Franco** (Paraguay) said that his delegation welcomed the active participation of the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and other international organizations in the preparation of conferences and plans of action on sustainable development. It urged Member States to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries by adopting the relevant draft resolutions during the current session of the General Assembly; to discuss global partnerships involving the public and private sectors with a view to boosting the role in the economy of local enterprises, in particular small and medium enterprises, and relations with the United Nations development system; and to build national data gathering, analysis and dissemination capacities in order to inform the implementation of public policies.

20. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that United Nations activities had increasingly been financed by voluntary and private contributions, but that the increase in partnerships involving the private sector had not been matched by concrete measures to promote better transparency, accountability and governance. Existing partnerships had generally expanded outside the purview of intergovernmental oversight, without adequate participation by the States Members of the United Nations. The recent allegations involving the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which the Secretary-General had addressed during the debate on the revitalization of the General Assembly, had demonstrated what could happen when the private sector was unaccountable to the Member States. Thus his delegation believed it was necessary to establish detailed due diligence and reporting procedures to avoid United Nations engagement with dubious corporations.

21. Over the previous 15 years, the United Nations had launched several initiatives and partnerships extending to the private sector, but insufficient reporting and accountability had left Member States

with no clear assessment of the results. Though the volume of resources and funding involved was quite impressive, especially in comparison to the regular budget and core funding for development activities, information on the origins and destinations of the funding was scant for Member States and civil society. Of further concern was the fact that some of the funded activities duplicated mandated United Nations activities, which were underfunded in the regular budget.

22. The 2030 Agenda encompassed strategic and profitable markets in sectors such as energy, water services, oceans, natural resources, infrastructure and industrialization. A lack of monitoring, transparency and accountability could lead to the mismanagement of international cooperation in favour of deregulation and liberalization of markets, which in turn could jeopardize long-term sustainable development objectives, the engagement of civil society and the provision of public services.

23. The private sector could make a positive contribution towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but markets were imperfect and would not, for example, ensure the protection of human rights or the promotion of gender equality, such as on the issue of paid maternity leave. Only Governments could accomplish those objectives through public policies, targeted regulation and the help of civil society in ensuring the proper functioning of accountability mechanisms.

24. **Mr. Cao Zhiyong** (China) said that strengthening global partnerships was an important means for implementing the 2030 Agenda, and that North-South cooperation should remain the primary channel. Developed countries should adequately fulfil their ODA pledges in a timely manner, increase their support to developing countries, particularly African and least developed countries, and assist developing countries to improve their own capacities. Developing countries should be encouraged and supported to further strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in accordance with the principles of mutual respect and equality. South-South cooperation was a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and developing countries should assist one another and share their experiences in sustainable development. The private sector, civil society and other stakeholders should be supported in playing a greater role in international development partnerships. China

had recently worked with the United Nations to deepen South-South cooperation, and would continue to work with all parties for greater cooperation across a broader range of issues, in the interest of implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving common development and prosperity.

25. **Mr. Bunnag** (Thailand) said that genuine and revitalized partnership was one of the requirements for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other relevant actors should work together to mobilize all available resources as well as review the 2030 Agenda as appropriate. North-South cooperation and ODA would remain at the core of the global partnership. South-South and triangular cooperation were becoming increasingly important but should not be seen as a substitute for North-South cooperation. The South could offer technical assistance to its partners, especially in the areas of capacity-building and human resources development. His country had provided assistance in the areas of sustainable agriculture, rural development, public health, education and manufacturing not only to its neighbours but also further afield, and especially to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

26. Regional and interregional groupings could help introduce efficient development practices by harmonizing standards and regulations, facilitating transport and improving infrastructure. The forthcoming establishment of the ASEAN Community and six other groupings in Southeast Asia were good examples. Six special economic zones along his country's borders would boost cross-border trade and thus help to bridge the development gap between countries.

27. The private sector could play a role in addressing sustainable development challenges by aligning corporate social responsibility with national and international development priorities. The United Nations Global Compact should therefore cultivate new partnerships with the business sector. The Corporate Social Responsibility Institute, based in Thailand, had played an important role in developing the ASEAN Corporate Social Responsibility Network.

28. Global partnership required an enabling international environment in the form of a rule-based,

non-discriminatory and equitable trading system, including duty-free and quota-free market access and preferential rules of origin for least developed countries in order to leverage other forms of global partnership. Thailand had provided such access since April 2015 and would continue to be a builder of bridges between developed and developing countries within the framework of system-wide collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

29. **Mr. Kang** Youn Ho (Republic of Korea) said that the genuine revitalization of global partnerships required the participation not only of Member States, but also of the private sector, civil society, academia, youth and other diverse stakeholders. With a view to fostering such an inclusive environment, his delegation looked forward to strengthening draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.24](#). In addition, enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Academic Impact, which both promoted values compatible with the 2030 Agenda, would be extremely valuable for inclusive and transparent development. The international community must continue its efforts to bolster partnerships, including through the Partnerships Forum of the Economic and Social Council.

30. **Mr. Adeoye** (Nigeria) said that partnerships championed by the United Nations must operate in conformity with the national development strategies and priorities of partner countries. Partnerships between the private sector and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should be based on the principles of probity, transparency and accountability, and the experiences and lessons learned from them should be reviewed in a timely manner.

31. His delegation welcomed the evolving role and growing importance of United Nations Global Compact networks, and believed that public-private partnerships and value-driven partnerships with organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council should be strengthened, because they were relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

32. He also emphasized the need for partnerships among Member States and intracontinental bodies to advance South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, as well as the core principles and values of sovereign equality, equity, alignment with national and regional development plans and priorities,

leadership and ownership, harmonization, and mutual accountability and responsiveness.

33. His Government had promoted development through bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and would continue to do so.

34. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that in mobilizing the means needed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, collaboration with the private sector must not give rise to competition for resources among entities of the United Nations development system. Specialized funds, programmes and institutions should prioritize core resources over non-core resources, since non-core resources already represented 75 per cent of the total financing of operational activities for development. The General Assembly had agreed that non-core resources could not replace core resources, and that restricted earmarked funding was problematic because it could result in higher transaction costs, risks of dispersion, competition or overlap between entities, and could discourage efforts aimed at improving system-wide positioning and strategic coherence. It could also call into question the programme priorities determined by intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms.

35. Companies and other external actors might attempt to circumvent the principles and values of the United Nations system, as well as national priorities and intergovernmental mandates. Therefore, strengthening partnerships with the private sector must not erode the impartiality and multilateral character of the United Nations system. Nor must partnerships be transformed into a system for outsourcing to the private sector. His delegation agreed that the United Nations must mitigate the risk of excessive corporate influence by admitting input from private sector partners into the strategic goals of partnership only and not, for example, the broader decision-making of the Organization ([A/70/296](#), para. 41).

36. Rather than imposing undue rigidity on partnership agreements between the United Nations and the private sector, it was important to ensure their transparency, coherence and accountability. To that end, it was imperative to implement the provisions of paragraph 13(b) of General Assembly resolution 68/234, namely to disclose the partners, contributions and matching funds for all relevant partnerships, including at the country level. His delegation

welcomed the fact that most United Nations entities had dedicated portions of their websites to partnerships, and some had included separate sections for different partner types. However, given that most operational activities for development of the United Nations system took place at the country level, his delegation was concerned that the quality of the information varied considerably, and that apparently no United Nations bodies had exhaustive and universal practices to provide more complete information.

37. Other mechanisms for monitoring partnerships were the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; the annual forum on financing for development follow-up; and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

38. **Mr. Andambi** (Kenya) said that many developing countries remained poor and vulnerable and needed to partner with developed countries and multilateral institutions in a spirit of global solidarity. It was important to strengthen global partnerships in order to reduce reliance on ODA. Sustainable Development Goal 17 recognized that fact. His country faced development challenges that required transformative change based on collective action by all countries. His Government was working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to implement a decent work country programme for 2013 to 2016, with the strategic objectives of creating jobs; guaranteeing rights at work; extending social protection to the most vulnerable; and promoting social dialogue. The programme was being implemented in partnership with representatives of workers and employers, ILO officials and United Nations agencies.

39. In partnership with Kenyatta University, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women had established a centre for transformative and inclusive leadership, with a special focus on women, as well as launching initiatives in Dadaab refugee camp to enable women to earn an income and acquire skills. His Government was also working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to provide high-quality health-care facilities and technical and financial support for statistical capacity-building. The World Bank Group was working in partnership with the Kenyan Government to support its efforts to end extreme poverty by improving competitiveness and sustainability and investing \$1 billion per year.

40. **Ms. Prizreni** (Albania) said that all countries should take collective action on the basis of their individual capacities to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals within a coherent framework of financing for development. Throughout the transition period, her country's development had been supported by external assistance and it had acceded to the status of a middle-income country.

41. Albania was currently pursuing a European integration strategy. European Union funding was taking precedence over traditional bilateral and other donor sources.

42. In the era of the Sustainable Development Goals, the global partnership for development should assist middle-income countries by promoting targeted long-term investments, including foreign direct investment, from the private sector.

43. Lastly, her Government was improving human mobility as a means of mobilizing domestic resources for sustainable development.

44. **Ms. Medvedeva** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation attached great importance to partnerships in the context of implementing the post-2015 development agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Strengthened partnerships with States, international organizations, the private sector and academia had been a key factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. A systematic approach was now needed for the business community and other partners engaged in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, and greater coordination between the United Nations and its partners.

45. In the context of a revitalized global partnership, existing mechanisms and platforms, such as the United Nations Global Compact, must be developed and new ones created. However, the full potential of the global partnership would be realized only if all parties cooperated transparently with Governments, which bore the main responsibility for implementing the new 2030 Agenda.

46. Innovative partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector were of growing relevance. Recent clear examples included the work of organizations within the United Nations system (including UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization) during the unprecedented international operation to combat the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, as well as the response to the devastating earthquake in Nepal. That trend should be factored into the near-term strategy for cooperation between the United Nations and entrepreneurs.

47. The Economic and Social Council, its high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Development Cooperation Forum had a key role to play in advancing the revitalized global partnership. All stakeholders should make use of the high-level forum and the Development Cooperation Forum in order to devise collective approaches to economic, social and environmental issues, and to disseminate best practices for sustainable development at all levels.

48. Greater transparency and accountability were needed in partnerships with the private sector. In that connection, the Russian Federation welcomed the revised Guidelines on a Principle-based Approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, which emphasized the importance of disclosing information on partners, contributions and relevant funds to all stakeholders.

49. The adoption by consensus of the draft resolution on global partnerships should help to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and non-governmental actors, particularly businesses, foundations and other private sector organizations, under rules of openness.

50. The Russian Federation had a long history of successfully engaging non-governmental actors in national development issues and in international development cooperation. The number of Russian companies adhering to principles of transparency, accountability and social and environmental responsibility was rapidly growing. The Russian private sector would certainly continue making a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the advancement of corporate social responsibility, including in the context of the sustainable development agenda.

51. **Mr. Thammavongsa** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that strong global partnerships were needed now more than ever in order to mobilize the enormous volume of resources required to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

52. A pivotal role would continue to be played by ODA in ensuring that international development goals and targets were met by developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Recalling that South-South cooperation was a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, his delegation thanked the developed countries that had fulfilled their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income in the form of ODA to developing countries, and called upon other developed countries to do the same.

53. While welcoming initiatives to expand resources originating from the private sector for development, he said that Governments needed to identify those development priorities where the private sector could most effectively engage.

54. His Government had created the National Round Table Process to serve as the main platform for meetings between Government officials and development partners, with the aim of discussing, reviewing and committing to national development plans, including the National Socio-Economic Development Plans, which guided his country's overall development. Increased country ownership was a key principle on which effective aid and cooperation were based.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.