



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2016

Original: English

2016 session

24 July 2015-27 July 2016

High-level segment

Summary record of the 39th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 20 July 2016, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Jürgenson (Vice-President) (Estonia)

Contents

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*)

General debate (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

16-12377 (E)



Please recycle



In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Jürgenson (Estonia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (continued)

General debate (continued)

1. **Ms. Smith** (Australia) said that Australia was working with, inter alia, civil society organizations, private sector entities, including Global Compact Network Australia and the Business and Sustainable Development Commission, its developing country partners and multilateral institutions to ensure effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Her country's international development priorities were aligned with the Agenda and built on its existing aid programme, which focused on economic growth, gender equality, peace and governance, health and education. Relevant commitments included the appointment of Australia's Prime Minister to the joint United Nations and World Bank Group High-level Panel on Water; the launch of a national gender equality and women's empowerment strategy backed by Government funding; and Australia's current role as co-chair of the Green Climate Fund and pledge of at least \$1 billion in aid funding by 2020 to tackle climate change. In the area of financing for development, Australia was helping its developing country partners to strengthen their tax systems through its participation as a founding member of the Addis Tax Initiative and was committed to spending 20 per cent of its development assistance on Aid for Trade, focusing on engagement with the private sector.

2. Domestic initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals included new policies to reduce domestic violence; prioritization of the Close the Gap campaign to reduce the disadvantages faced by indigenous Australians; and the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. To deliver on the 2030 Agenda, Member States must strive to communicate the Agenda's objectives in a simple manner, maintain momentum for its implementation until 2030, build effective partnerships, and focus on the political and practical steps needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. **Mr. Dabbashi** (Libya) said that the high-level political forum provided an opportunity to translate the Sustainable Development Goals into concrete action.

Underpinned by a commitment to the right to development and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, international efforts must focus on advancing the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, strengthening coordination between United Nations agencies at the regional and subregional level and avoiding duplication of efforts in development and humanitarian work. In addition, efforts to tackle poverty must target need as well as income, and should be supported by initiatives to eradicate unemployment and guarantee universal access to health care and education.

4. To ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the international community must help poor countries implement their development plans by providing them with sufficient and predictable financial resources. Facilitating the transfer of technology and building the capacities of developing countries would also help promote sustainable development. In that context, given the critical importance of official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries, particularly those that lacked other sources of income, developed countries must follow through on their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

5. In many countries, the flight of capital from developing countries to advanced countries and safe havens in certain small countries was unfortunately slowing the pace of development. All States must therefore cooperate in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption and devising mechanisms to return funds to their countries of origin more easily and expeditiously. In that regard, Libya looked to Member States and multilateral institutions for support in recovering its stolen funds from abroad.

6. Libya's ongoing transition from totalitarianism to democracy and the chaotic security situation in the country had brought all development programmes to a standstill and had made it impossible to put in place a national strategy for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Recalling the interlinkages between development, security and stability, he called on the international community and the United Nations system to support his country's efforts to strengthen its capacities and build its institutions, which would be one of the top priorities of the Government of National Accord. Pending the endorsement of its new

Government by the House of Representatives, Libya looked to the United Nations and its specialized agencies to support its efforts to build its institutions and capacities and foster good governance, develop a national development plan in alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, diversify its sources of income and overcome the humanitarian crisis.

7. **Mr. Muharemi** (Croatia) said that the adoption of the draft ministerial declaration would attest to Member States' unified determination to implement the 2030 Agenda. In that context, the high-level political forum would play a crucial role in monitoring implementation efforts, identifying emerging issues and providing recommendations for future action. To ensure that no one was left behind, Member States themselves must not fall behind on their commitments to current and future generations and to the planet as a whole. They must therefore move beyond the "honeymoon" stage following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals to develop firm, yet flexible, strategies for their implementation.

8. Smart and accountable political leadership was required to harness the potential of the 2030 Agenda to prevent and resolve emerging challenges resulting from the inroads of globalization. The concept of sustainable development must also become second nature for Member States to achieve transformative change in the social, economic and environmental spheres.

9. In line with focus in the 2030 Agenda on vulnerable groups, Croatia had prioritized the empowerment of women and girls and access to education and employment at the national level. In addition, to maximize its impact as a relatively small donor on the global stage, Croatia sought to expand its input to development cooperation beyond financial support by contributing its unique understanding of the development challenges posed by post-conflict settings and of the root causes of conflicts.

10. The unprecedented complexity of the 2030 Agenda called for considerable effort on the part of the global South and North. As a country that had emerged, over the previous 25 years, from a political, social and economic transition and war of independence to become a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), thanks to broad-based public support, inclusiveness and political unity, Croatia stood ready to

participate in national and international efforts to implement the Agenda.

11. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg) said that, while 2015 had been a pivotal year for development policy at the institutional level, the darker side of globalization, evident in the recent increase in regional crises, migratory movements and extremism, should provide renewed impetus for efforts to capitalize on the inclusive spirit of the 2030 Agenda. An embodiment of the Organization's long-standing tradition of openness and humanism, the Agenda must be implemented to give concrete expression to the international community's political will.

12. The experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had illustrated the need for development actors to overcome differences and work in an integrated, synergistic manner. To that end, cooperation with civil society, the private sector and academia, as well as among Government ministries, should be strengthened in support of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, her Government had created an interdepartmental committee to establish a national framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Statistical Commission of the new global indicator framework for monitoring progress toward the Goals, she supported the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General in his related report on the importance of reliable and disaggregated data and of investing in robust social protection systems and education.

13. To ensure that no one was left behind, Member States must redouble their efforts to promote gender equality and the status of women, as well as the rights of children and the role of youth as agents of change in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Promoting decent work, reducing social inequalities, improving the situation of vulnerable and marginalized groups, and ensuring universal access to health care, including sexual and reproductive care and rights, should also be prioritized. Likewise, a cross-cutting approach must be taken to protecting the environment and biodiversity and to combating climate change. Member States should also promote peaceful and inclusive societies based on the principles of good governance, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and tolerance.

14. As one of the seven Member States dedicating at least 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to

development, Luxembourg believed that ODA played a critical role in supporting efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. Lastly, she hoped that the momentum achieved by the high-level political forum would be maintained throughout the implementation period of the 2030 Agenda.

15. **Mr. Silberhorn** (Germany) said that the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda would depend on Member States' fulfilment of their pledge to leave no one behind. While unprecedented progress had been made toward eradicating poverty, many countries, particularly those currently affected by or emerging from conflict, struggled to meet their populations' basic needs for food, shelter and security and to tackle the growing inequalities that contributed to poverty and social unrest. As incoming co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, Germany would advance the development effectiveness agenda in line with the 2030 Agenda to promote inclusive development, for which the effective implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was likewise essential. His country had also joined the coalition to ensure that no one was left behind, led by the Netherlands.

16. Germany devoted approximately 25 per cent of its aid budget to assisting fragile States and was increasing its aid portfolio in support of refugees, notably through its contribution to campaigns to promote employment for displaced persons in the Middle East. He urged other Member States to contribute to such programmes, which were essential for identifying those at risk of being left behind and for ensuring the effectiveness of support for development. Disaggregated data were likewise indispensable for achieving those aims. His country would also work to promote gender equality, including by supporting women's access to technical and vocational education in the agricultural sector through cooperation with civil society organizations.

17. Environmental preservation was particularly critical for protecting the world's poor, who were disproportionately affected by the overstepping of planetary boundaries and the impact of climate change, pollution and declining natural resources. In that regard, Germany would double its financing to combat global climate change from €2 billion to €4 billion per year by 2020. Similarly, as co-founder of the "InsuResilience" initiative adopted at the forty-first G-7 Summit, his country aimed to insure over 400

million people in the most vulnerable developing countries against the effects of climate change by 2020. Germany would also take into account the impact of domestic actions, economies and lifestyles worldwide in implementing its revised national sustainability strategy. Lastly, he underscored the critical role of development cooperation in ensuring that no one was left behind.

18. **Mr. Matjila** (South Africa) said that the 2030 Agenda provided an opportunity to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and to address the wide range of global challenges that threatened to reverse the development gains achieved in recent decades. In view of the mutually reinforcing nature of sustainable development and peace and security, efforts should be undertaken to harness the potential of the Sustainable Development Goals to prevent conflict and bolster the efforts of United Nations and African Union peacekeeping operations to support post-conflict reconstruction and peacekeeping. In particular, concerted efforts should be made to ensure the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063 in order to reverse the conditions contributing to violence in areas of potential or existing conflict and to promote post-conflict reconstruction on the African continent.

19. National efforts in support of the 2030 Agenda and African Union Agenda 2063 had focused particularly on addressing poverty, inequality and unemployment, while ensuring that all stakeholders were empowered to contribute to the implementation process. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, South Africa's Vision 2030 development plan mandated all relevant stakeholders to contribute to building a democratic, prosperous and inclusive society free of racial and gender-based discrimination. Building on his country's achievements in the area of social and economic development since 1994, the plan had resulted in significant gains in the areas of poverty reduction, education and skills development, health care, access to basic services and the provision of social security benefits to various segments of the population.

20. Meaningful collaboration in support of development, particularly in the area of technology, would be essential to end poverty within a generation, promote a dignified life for each individual and safeguard the planet, including by combating climate change. To that end, Member States must capitalize on,

inter alia, the tools identified by the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the research of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the peaceful use of technology. Lastly, the high-level political forum should encourage all Member States and relevant international bodies to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

21. **Mr. Tsymbaliuk** (Ukraine) said that the Sustainable Development Goals, fuelled by an uncompromising belief in progress and the value of the human person, provided a unique opportunity to enhance international cooperation in support of sustainable development.

22. In partnership with the United Nations, his Government had established 17 expert subgroups to adapt the Goals to the national context, a process steered by an inter-ministerial working group, and nationwide consultations had been held to raise awareness of the Goals and define sustainable development priorities at the local level. Those efforts would culminate in the development of a national report that would provide a holistic and coherent framework for advancing and following up on progress toward the Goals in his country.

23. At the national level, Ukraine was implementing ambitious reforms in the area of social development and, at the international level, had been contributing to long-term cooperation efforts to improve people's lives and effect change in key areas of sustainable development. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Ukraine 2020 national development strategy aimed to enhance social conditions in Ukraine by establishing social cooperation between Government, business and civil society, with specific responsibilities for each stakeholder. Ensuring European standards of living and the optimal position of Ukraine in the world were prerequisites for that process.

24. Democratic governance and elections were particularly critical for ensuring active participation in efforts to advance the universal priorities of peace and wellbeing, which could only be protected through the concerted efforts of the international community. As a country whose democratic stability continued to be threatened by Russian military aggression, Ukraine had first-hand experience of conflict and its consequences. Sustainable peace being a prerequisite for sustainable development, it was essential to capitalize on the

interlinkages between the Goals relating to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the other Sustainable Development Goals. Lastly, multi-stakeholder dialogue would be critical for identifying and addressing emerging development challenges.

25. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) said that, based on the positive experience of the MDGs and the national coordination process for the 2030 Agenda, a wide range of national stakeholders had participated in developing a platform for action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and targets in Brazil. As part of that strategy, efforts would be made to enhance the governance structure of the interministerial working group composed of 27 Government ministries and various external stakeholders that had been established by his Government during the negotiations of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The Government had also aligned its 2016-2019 multi-year plan with the Goals to mainstream them in Government programmes and policies and ensure the allocation of dedicated financial resources.

26. A national system was being developed to consolidate and harmonize data collected by Government institutions, as well as to centralize the flow of data to international organizations involved in monitoring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute, which had participated actively in formulating the global indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, was developing a national set of indicators to monitor Brazil's progress toward the Goals. Moreover, mechanisms and structures previously established to achieve the MDGs at the local level, including a list of elective commitments that mayors could implement with the support of federal funding, an award to recognize best practices, and partnerships with civil society and the private sector designed to strengthen the impact of related policies, would be enhanced in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. Brazil's Federal Court of Accounts would be responsible for monitoring implementation at the national level. In addition, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Brazilian authorities had organized multi-stakeholder workshops to promote awareness of the Goals, including by distributing promotional materials in Portuguese, particularly General Assembly resolution 70/1, which had been disseminated in all Portuguese-speaking countries.

27. His Government had been mainstreaming the Goals in its South-South cooperation programmes and had proposed that similar mainstreaming efforts should be undertaken by organizations such as the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. Similarly, in line with its support for the contributions of regional commissions to implementation efforts, Brazil would participate actively in the regional forum on sustainable development established by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Lastly, given its universal character and unique status as a hybrid body of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the high-level political forum should serve not only as a platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda but also as a space for effective political leadership and the promotion of sustainable development.

28. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that national implementation efforts were indispensable to the coherent and successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that connection, Jamaica was aligning its Vision 2030 development plan and medium-term socioeconomic framework with the 2030 Agenda and, in the upcoming five years, would revise and formulate critical policies and strategies to address vulnerabilities relating to population, poverty, senior citizens, youth, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

29. To ensure that no one was left behind, significant investment and resources would be required to implement appropriate strategies and ensure high-quality data at the national level. In that regard, the international community must follow through on its commitment to support efforts by small island developing States to strengthen the capacities of their national statistical offices to collect and analyse data.

30. Regional commissions had a critical role to play in the follow-up, review, implementation and integration of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. In that regard, the regional forum on sustainable development organized by ECLAC would serve as a locus for review and follow-up activities in the region.

31. While the 22 voluntary national reviews submitted were a positive initial contribution to the global review process, the process must be flexible enough to allow for consideration of all Sustainable Development Goals and related emerging issues. Lastly, particularly in view of their significant participation in the crafting of the 2030 Agenda,

representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector must be included in related review and follow-up processes.

32. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that unprecedented challenges, particularly terrorism, had caused serious economic and social problems. Groups including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Nusrah Front carried out attacks that undermined the security of Syrians and which were financed and supported by a number of countries. Sustainable development would be impossible to achieve under the punishing unilateral measures imposed on Syria by some countries. International appeals for them to be lifted continued, due to the disastrous impact of the sanctions on the Syrian economy and people, as well as the ongoing refugee crisis.

33. The international community must work together to ensure that the goal to leave no one behind was met without discrimination or double standards, and to guarantee that countries addressed the main challenges impeding sustainable development, such as foreign occupation and colonization.

34. Moreover, the commitments of developed countries to developing countries should be assessed in a periodic review of all activities to implement sustainable development. Obstacles to sustainable development included interventions in the internal affairs of States, unilateral sanctions, and the spread of violent extremism, as well as discrimination against refugees and migrants and the violation of their rights by certain countries.

35. In order to ensure that all people were able to enjoy their rights fully, the high-level political forum must work in accordance with the United Nations framework to uphold State sovereignty, cultural diversity, and national priorities in politics and development, as well as to increase national and international understanding of the importance of the shared responsibility central to sustainable development. It was also important to avoid politicizing the 2030 Agenda, to aid countries facing terrorism or extremism, and to ensure that unilateral coercive measures were lifted around the world.

36. **Mr. Jinga** (Romania) said that the voluntary country reviews on implementation of the 2030 Agenda were essential to ensuring accountability and raising awareness of the importance of sustainable development.

37. As the Romanian approach to implementation prioritized strong national leadership and ownership of the 2030 Agenda, existing domestic policy frameworks were being assessed to identify gaps and challenges in the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level. Sustainable development required a governmental and cross-sectoral approach in order to make progress in areas including the empowerment of women and girls, good governance, universal sustainable energy, inclusive growth, and reductions in inequalities and marginalization. In that regard, an inter-ministerial committee had been established to enhance cooperation to achieve the Goals, as effective policy integration required a broad spectrum of expertise and transcended the competencies of individual ministries.

38. Similarly, while the commitment of governments was vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, civil society, the business sector and the media must also work together to raise awareness of the Goals, as well as to make plans, implement the Goals, monitor the progress made and ensure the accountability of the actors involved. Moreover, as parliaments played an important role in bringing the Goals to public attention, the Romanian Parliament had adopted a comprehensive declaration on the Goals earlier in 2016 and had co-hosted a regional parliamentary seminar on the International Development Goals with the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

39. Furthermore, Romania had actively defended the link between development, peace and security in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The sustainability of development and poverty eradication required the rule of law and effective institutions, both underpinned by human rights. However, financial considerations must also be taken into account and economies thereby reoriented towards sustainable development. All available resources must be drawn on to implement the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, official development assistance would remain important for the poorest and most vulnerable countries, although such limited assistance must be used in ways which built capacities and leveraged further resources.

40. **Mr. Sandoval Cojulán** (Guatemala) said that his country's experiences of the Millennium Development Goals had helped to improve Guatemalan ownership and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and had resulted in a long-term vision for Guatemalan development. In that regard, Guatemala had taken steps

to restore the role played by State planning through its national planning system under the national council for urban and rural development. The main instrument for planning was the national development plan for the period to 2032, which had been developed through an inclusive process involving representatives from all of society and was the result of the alignment of national and international agendas.

41. Partnerships were also vital as the private sector had committed to working towards inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and full, productive and decent employment for all Guatemalans by 2030. Civil society, including academia, also contributed through studies, reports, strategies and proposals for developing policies aimed at fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, as well as to monitoring progress and the actions of public bodies with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals.

42. To ensure the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Guatemala had developed a commission for the follow-up and review of its 2032 development plan. The commission was responsible for technical monitoring, as well as for developmental and environmental commitments taken on by the Government.

43. The United Nations system must support States in carrying out initiatives which allow them to integrate the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, while recognizing that the States themselves were primarily responsible for realizing the 2030 Agenda. Lastly, in light of the focus in the Agenda on achieving the enjoyment of full human rights for all, Guatemala was committed to supporting women, children and young people as agents of change.

44. **Mr. Sevilla Borja** (Ecuador), reiterating his country's commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, said that, given that the adoption of the Agenda was still recent, it was a positive development that countries were already presenting voluntary reports on their national implementation of the Agenda and the joint work carried out among governments, civil society and the business sector.

45. For its part, Ecuador had the political will to work responsibly towards building a society based on a fair, democratic and sustainable economic system, by carrying out processes identified in its national plan, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. In addition, in

following up and reviewing the Agenda, there must be an ongoing debate led by Member States to prioritize the targets that would be assessed. It was important to strengthen national capacities to produce high-quality statistics and geo-referencing systems for data, as well as to adapt the Sustainable Development Goals to the national context of any given country.

46. **Mr. Abdrakhmanov** (Kazakhstan) said that the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets aligned with his country's national priorities and objectives. Although its economy had been adversely affected by the global economic slowdown, Kazakhstan had implemented a national strategy for the period until 2050 which aimed for Kazakhstan to become one of the thirty most developed countries in the world.

47. Furthermore, in order to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals, Kazakhstan would use a proactive strategy encompassing many different approaches, including its second five-year plan for innovative industrial development and the State programme for infrastructure development. Kazakhstan was also implementing a national action plan that would improve the work of civil and legal institutions, industrialize the economy, remove administrative barriers for small and medium-sized businesses, and strengthen the rule of law, good governance, and education and health-care systems.

48. Moreover, Government social spending had almost tripled in real terms and increased funding for Kazakhstan's second national roadmap for employment, which would ensure the stability of the national labour market. Kazakhstan was also involved in building transport infrastructure for the revival of the Silk Road, which would benefit many countries while reducing transportation times and the costs of goods.

49. In 2017, Kazakhstan would host the Expo 2017 event on future energy, which would contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Nonetheless, the Council and the high-level political forum should play a larger role in implementing the Goals by providing strategic policy guidance and coordination across the United Nations system. The President of Kazakhstan had therefore proposed that the Economic and Social Council should become a global development council, made up of United Nations Member States elected by the General

Assembly and the heads of specialized United Nations agencies, including international financial institutions. While it would require significant time and effort, the Council should become a global economic regulator that carried out projects to promote economic growth worldwide.

50. In addition, the President had proposed that all States should annually allocate 1 per cent of their defence budgets to a special United Nations fund for sustainable development. If implemented, that fund could become a supplementary source of financing, not only for sustainable development, but also for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

51. **Mr. Donoghue** (Ireland) said that his Government was actively engaged in establishing appropriate institutional arrangements for the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and global levels. The national statistics office, for example, would assist in implementing the sustainable development framework and would support the development of national objectives and indicators that best aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

52. Civil society, in particular young people, was crucial to delivering the Agenda, and the international community should ensure that implementation was inclusive and responsive to the needs of youth. Ireland's aid programme would continue to focus on ending poverty and hunger, with 50 per cent of its official development assistance dedicated to assisting the world's poorest countries.

53. Governments had a duty to build awareness of the Agenda, which should include promotion and outreach to foster understanding. Successful implementation would rely on ownership and understanding of the Agenda.

54. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that the high-level forum should ensure United Nations system-wide coherence in sustainable development programmes and policies globally. Plagued by impediments and structural issues, including weak governance, lack of technology and disaggregated data, his Government recognized the need for solidarity. Every means of implementation, including trade, technology transfer and capacity-building, should be employed to aid least

developed countries to build production capacity and resilient infrastructure.

55. Seeking to build on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, Nepal had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into the national development plan for the period 2016-2019. The capacity support of the United Nations development system meant a great deal to countries like Nepal. A year had already been lost in discussions without action; no further time should be wasted in beginning work to ensure development capable of being sustained long past 2030. To that end, appropriate spacing of monitoring and evaluation exercises and the development of the next cycle would be required.

56. **Mr. Ružička** (Slovakia) said that no event should be considered inevitable. Preventive actions as well as the capacity to take into consideration differing beliefs were crucial. Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would require innovative policies and a change in mindset, as well as accelerated action in critical areas of implementation.

57. Slovakia was working on its national programme and anticipated presenting its progress within a few months. Among its activities, it had adopted several documents on the importance of the Agenda and had created a shared management framework. A multi-stakeholder meeting had also been held. As the current president of the European Union, Slovakia would prioritize multilateral global issues, and would engage actively in the implementation of the Agenda.

58. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) said that his Government's sustainable development strategy was focused on population management and stabilization, and sought to empower individuals to take responsibility for improving their lives. It would position Papua New Guinea as an authority in the areas of climate stability, clean air, clean energy security and food security and allow the country to take ownership of its future. The necessary measures were being taken to localize and mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals, improve data collection and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships.

59. National university degree courses on sustainable development had been institutionalized and, among other policies, free education and health care, had been instituted, resulting in 87 per cent gross school enrolment for men and women, improved maternal mortality rates, free contraception for women and girls,

reduced incidence of malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV and AIDS, entrepreneurial training for women and the development of renewable energy solutions.

60. **Mr. Teo** (Singapore) said that his delegation welcomed frameworks such as the high-level political forum, which made it possible to measure progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although it was important for each country to track its progress according to its capabilities, global review and the sharing of best practices were also essential. Singapore's renewed commitment to development could be seen in its Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015, which outlined a national vision and plans that would support the needs and aspirations of Singaporeans.

61. Singapore welcomed the attention dedicated to the challenges faced by small island developing States at the forum and anticipated continued focus on their views and concerns in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Agenda. Successful implementation would depend on global partnership. Singapore's sustainable development programme bore witness to cooperation in such areas as good governance, sustainable cities and urban planning, and water and sanitation. His Government would support fellow developing countries in implementing the Agenda.

62. *The meeting was suspended at 4.40 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.*

63. **Mr. Rycroft** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the United Kingdom would reinforce its commitment to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and work to effect tangible change for people the world over during the next 15 years.

64. His Government would spend 0.7 per cent of its gross national income on official development assistance, its actions guided by the principles of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. With a focus on reaching the most vulnerable, the United Kingdom would strive to end the various manifestations of violence against women and girls. It would also build statistical capacity and promote the use of disaggregated data in order to reveal the extent of progress. Partnerships with a variety of stakeholders in achieving those aims would ensure the fullest possible perspective and the reflection of the widest spectrum of views at the national and international levels.

65. **Mr. Doucouré** (Mali) said that in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, strategies were needed to reinforce economic growth and provide social protections. To that end, the National Assembly had adopted legislation to establish a quota of at least 30 per cent of posts in national institutions reserved for women. Further actions taken to increase women's participation included the adoption of a Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) implementation action plan; a policy to ensure women's representation at all levels of society, including the armed forces; steps to empower rural women; and targeted programmes to strengthen women's managerial capacity and ensure their access to economic resources.

66. Having developed a framework strategy for economic recovery, Mali anticipated an upcoming capacity-building workshop designed to improve localization, mainstreaming and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. With the understanding that the achievement of the Goals required an integrated approach that took into account national priorities, all relevant United Nations bodies as well as regional, bilateral and multilateral partners were called upon to provide the necessary support. Lastly, he expressed gratitude to African regional and subregional organizations and to the international community for their support to Mali in recovering from the recent multi-dimensional crises it had faced.

67. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that joint efforts were required to address the challenges faced by developing countries. For example, the transfer of technology to countries in need would ensure global and long-lasting development. His Government had begun to formulate policies and plans among the various ministries in cooperation with civil society and the private sector in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Within that framework, Sudan would tackle such issues as climate change and the production of renewable energy. It would prioritize countries in need of special attention, including least developed countries and those emerging from conflict. In addition, Sudan would focus on building a peaceful society, which required strengthened capacity and data analysis to assist decision makers. Developed countries must also honour their capacity-building commitments.

68. **Mr. Salam** (Lebanon) said that Lebanon was in the final stages of drafting its sustainable development plan. The plan would be aligned to the greatest extent possible to the Sustainable Development Goals, while

also introducing country-specific targets. Relevant consultations were under way within the council of ministers, but would be expanded in future to include all relevant stakeholders.

69. To finance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Lebanon envisaged a combination that would include private-public partnerships and domestic resource mobilization. With the understanding that implementation would stretch the financial, institutional and human resources of developing countries, including middle-income countries, United Nations system support would be crucial. It should include policy advice, technical assistance and capacity-building, the facilitation of partnerships, and the mobilization of resources and stakeholders.

70. More importantly, implementation would require a more coherent development assistance framework and predictable and sustainable funding, in addition to greater coordination and coherence between development and humanitarian activities, particularly in situations of protracted crisis. Lebanon had been hosting 1.2 million registered Syrian refugees since 2011, a situation that exerted great pressure on the country's resources, reduced prospects for economic growth, aggravated unemployment, and overstretched national infrastructure. Failing to provide longer-term development financing to developing countries hosting large numbers of refugees would seriously curtail their ability to implement the sustainable development agenda.

71. **Mr. Mamani Paco** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his delegation was alarmed at the prospect that some large transnational corporations might try to use the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as an opportunity for profit. Fundamental human rights should not be privatized or commercialized. The capitalist development model should not be the primary means of implementing the 2030 Agenda. His delegation therefore welcomed support for alternatives to the capitalist vision. Successful implementation of the goals and targets depended greatly on each country's public institutions. Focus should be placed on vulnerable groups, including those living under foreign occupation, refugees and migrants. His Government had recently adopted legislation that prioritized quality education.

72. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia) said that his Government was strongly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To ensure no one was left behind, all stakeholders and institutions from all levels of society should be involved. A strong sense of ownership was necessary to effectively implement the Agenda, and common efforts should be intensified in accordance with national capabilities. A strong and inclusive global partnership was critical, in particular in the provision of means of implementation.

73. His Government had taken various steps to implement the Agenda, in particular mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into development planning; developing relevant national and subnational action plans, as well as a database and reporting mechanism, and building subnational capacity. Legal and institutional frameworks, in addition to a national coordinating team consisting of representatives from government, academia, civil society and philanthropic organizations and other relevant stakeholders were being developed. Measures deemed successful during the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals would be continued, including an online progress monitoring system, annual reporting at the national and subnational levels, and the use of awards to acknowledge local government success in the achievement of the Goals.

74. The role of the high-level political forum in following up implementation at the national, regional and global levels should be strengthened, making it possible to identify and track progress across all targets and to identify best practices. Those practices could also be launched as pilot projects in various countries where appropriate.

75. **Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the national development strategy aimed to provide a broad socioeconomic development framework in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The strategy focused on achieving sustainable economic growth by diversifying the economy and improving social conditions and the quality of life in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner. To successfully mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals, his Government would ensure that ministries, departments and agencies pursued a collaborative agenda at the national level.

76. Recognizing the importance of partnerships and international cooperation to the achievement of the

Sustainable Development Goals, his Government welcomed the assistance provided by the United Nations Country Team. Trinidad and Tobago remained committed to working with Member States and other stakeholders to achieve sustainable development for all.

77. **Ms. Nusseibeh** (United Arab Emirates) said that, with regard to collective action to be taken before the next high-level political forum, there should be a stronger focus on capacity-building for the mobilization of private sector resources. As public financing alone was insufficient for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations and multilateral development banks should spearhead enhanced capacity-building efforts on project origination, project management and ensuring that instruments were free of risk. As each country would have different circumstances, capacity-building should not be prescriptive; Member States should, however, have sufficient funding to see projects to completion. In addition, potentially complementary aspects of public and private sector initiatives, including corporate social responsibility programmes, should be harnessed to form effective and impactful partnerships that facilitated progress towards the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

78. Furthermore, official development assistance was essential to some investments and many sectors needed support from concessional finance to become commercially viable. For example, the International Renewable Energy Agency had shown that renewable energy was the cheapest way to achieve universal energy access. Nonetheless, a lack of experience had slowed down deployment in many markets, although such gaps could be overcome more quickly through official development assistance. All stakeholders should therefore discuss the prioritization and best use of official development assistance, given the commercial potential of different sectors.

79. Moreover, the United Nations community should offer a minimum package of education and health services for women and girls in emergency situations, as well as a gender and age-sensitive focus on the resilience of education and health systems, as investment in such areas disproportionately prevented development losses and enabled post-crisis gains. Initiatives such as Every Woman Every Child Everywhere and Education Cannot Wait provided

examples of such an approach which should be highlighted at the next high-level political forum.

80. Similarly, efforts regarding gender equality and women's empowerment must continue. It was not coincidental that her country's economic growth had coincided with laws on equal pay, quotas for female participation and education initiatives, where currently there were more female university graduates than male. In July 2016, her country had signed an agreement for a liaison office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for Gulf countries to be located in Abu Dhabi. It would aim to drive change in policy and society to allow women to influence implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

81. At a national level, her Government had made changes to encompass a broader understanding of sustainable development and had established new ministerial posts for tolerance, happiness and youth affairs. Sustainable Development Goal indicators were also being integrated into the national development strategy.

82. **Mr. Bhatti** (Pakistan) said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require a structured, methodical and systematic approach at all levels. National ownership remained fundamental to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals must be mainstreamed in national development priorities and approaches with enthusiasm and unwavering political commitment.

83. Groundwork for implementation of the 2030 Agenda had been carried out quickly in Pakistan, which had allowed the Sustainable Development Goals to be launched nationally immediately after its adoption. In that regard, Vision 2025, Pakistan's long-term development strategy, fully implemented the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. It aimed to create prosperity with just, equitable and responsible governance, and had been developed through a broad-based, inclusive and consultative process.

84. Following the unanimous adoption of the 2030 Agenda by its national parliament, Pakistan was developing comprehensive actions plans for the implementation of the Agenda and was finalizing its national framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. An extensive awareness campaign for participation and ownership was also being undertaken. Furthermore, the Government was establishing coordination units for the Sustainable Development

Goals that focussed on mainstreaming the Goals in policies and development plans; strengthening statistical capacities and mechanisms for producing the required data for monitoring and reporting; exploring financing and budgeting options; and accelerating progress on Goals identified as priorities.

85. As trillions of dollars were required annually to achieve the 2030 Agenda, domestic resource mobilization and an enabling international environment were both critically important, alongside the realization of a renewed global partnership. Furthermore, while official development assistance remained an important source of financing for many developing countries, particularly small island developing States and less developed countries, climate finance must not be doubly counted as official development assistance as countries were obliged to support climate actions in developing countries.

86. Finally, institutional readjustment would remain a challenge in effectively following up and periodically reviewing the 2030 Agenda, which was necessary for the Agenda to remain relevant. Similarly, the United Nations development system should be recalibrated transparently and inclusively to support the universality of the issues covered by the Sustainable Development Goals.

87. **Ms. Aye** (Myanmar) said that, as a crucial platform for following up and reviewing the 2030 Agenda, the high-level political forum would contribute significantly to full and effective implementation of the Agenda by providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations for facilitating and sharing experiences and best practices, and comprehensively promoting the coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies within the United Nations system.

88. Given the unique circumstances of countries and the constraints they faced, Myanmar supported the decision not to impose coercive economic measures on developing countries. Myanmar itself was undergoing political, economic and social transformation and was addressing the root causes of poverty. In addition, in order to achieve sustainable peace nationwide, Myanmar was working towards an inclusive peace conference to be held in 2016. The Government was also focussing on capacity-building, increasing human resources, creating an enabling economic environment,

expanding access and connectivity, and enhancing resilience to natural disasters.

89. Furthermore, the global commitment to address the needs of less developed countries was important as many continued to face multiple structural challenges and obstacles to development. Sustained and effective partnerships were essential in helping less developed countries to overcome challenges and reduce vulnerabilities.

90. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that, by bringing all countries together through shared commitments, the 2030 Agenda was a sign of hope. It was important to underline that its implementation would require political leadership, financial commitments, resources, and the transfer of technology to as many countries and people as possible. However, compassion and solidarity were also necessary to meet those requirements and assist persons in need.

91. With regard to implementation, global, national and regional reviews enabled stakeholders to share best practices, which could reinvigorate political will and motivate grassroots actors towards a more effective implementation of the Agenda. Furthermore, reviews would help to improve understanding of how to build on achievements and consolidate best practices.

92. Moreover, reviews were a reminder that the success of the 2030 Agenda was dependent on the commitment of the international community to act effectively on its shared responsibilities. In that regard, voluntary international review presentations provided practical and fruitful discussion on the importance of political leadership, effective institutions, public and private finance and investments, and technology transfer. Lastly, the high-level political forum should assist governments and stakeholders to ensure that efforts were made and resources expended to increase inclusivity for all.

93. **Mr. Mikayilli** (Azerbaijan) said that bold political will and leadership was required to turn the commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals into tangible results by building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. Overall success in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals would depend on the preliminary work undertaken by Member States, in particular in promoting good governance, combating corruption and establishing robust institutions. Countries should identify priorities

based on their national circumstances, contexts and socioeconomic characteristics and should incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into their national action plans and strategies; national ownership was crucial to the timely and effective implementation of the Goals.

94. The primary focus of implementation should be on eradicating poverty, although it was noted with concern that the target to end hunger seemed unlikely to be met; efforts to help the most vulnerable people in society should therefore be increased. In addition, attention should be paid to youth employment, which would help to prevent and counter radicalization and violent extremism. The specific needs of small island developing States should be fully recognized due to the vulnerability of those countries to climate change.

95. With regard to sustainable development, good practices in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda needed to be shared and replicated. Azerbaijan's economic growth had resulted in decreasing poverty and unemployment rates, while progress had been made in improving the living and housing conditions of internally displaced persons. In addition, public and private services for citizens had been brought together in a single public service agency, making the services faster and more transparent and thereby helping to reduce corruption.

96. Moreover, despite a recent decrease in State revenue, the Government was working to deepen the reform process and accelerate the diversification of the economy. To that end, thousands of new jobs had been created and a State housing construction agency had been established to provide low-income families with housing under favourable conditions. The Government was also actively investing in renewable energy, while the Azerbaijan International Development Agency continued to support developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America through work on poverty reduction, and humanitarian and development programmes.

97. Finally, as sustainable development could not be realized without peace and security, the international community should increase its efforts to find political solutions to armed conflicts.

98. **Mr. Idrizi** (Albania) said that the Albanian national strategy for development and integration for the period from 2015 to 2020 was the main document to support his country's economic, social and

environmental development. Albania's path to rapid development was driven by its commitment to meet European standards in governance, the rule of law, and economic and social areas. To that end, with the assistance of the United Nations and other partners, Albania was working to refine targets further, design disaggregated monitoring and data efforts, and ensure that actions at all levels were fully inclusive.

99. Furthermore, the poverty rate had decreased by over 2 per cent through efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth, including encouraging formal employment, and improving the business climate and public services. Government funding for labour promotion measures had also quadrupled in recent years, while enrolment in vocational and educational training programmes had doubled. As a result, most recent graduates from vocational schools were employed and, to further combat youth unemployment, Albania had adopted a national youth action plan for the period from 2015 to 2020.

100. Albania had also undertaken a number of measures for the social inclusion, protection, employment and integration of its Roma and Egyptian populations, including the adoption of a new four-year strategy which would be implemented through close collaboration with community groups, the European Union and the United Nations.

101. As part of efforts to raise awareness of gender equality, Government and civil society campaigns had come together to bring an end to violence against women and figures had shown an increased responsiveness of services in that area. Significant advances had also been made in the political participation of women at the local and national levels.

102. In addition, the national council for the protection of the rights of children had identified priorities for strengthening the child protection system, as well as a new strategic guideline for its action plan for children for the period from 2016 to 2020. The newest initiative was to ensure that cities were inclusive and child-friendly by combining policies and actions at central and local levels of governance. Furthermore, with regard to climate change, the Albanian parliament had recently ratified the Paris Agreement.

103. Lastly, the Government was paying particular attention to Sustainable Development Goal 16 and had volunteered to test indicators to influence global efforts to increase access to justice and ensure the

accountability and inclusivity of institutions at all levels. In 2015, it had also undertaken a local governance reform to consolidate a number of municipalities and thereby create a focus for local democracy and development. In 2016, the Government was pursuing a key judicial reform.

104. **Mr. González Soca** (Cuba) said that there was a large gap between the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the international commitments to support their achievement, largely in developing countries. For example, given the present figures on the number of people without sufficient access to food, Goal 2 on eliminating hunger could not be achieved by 2030. Similarly, the mortality rate among children under five years of age worldwide was much higher than in developed countries and such trends must be addressed as soon as possible in order to meet the Goals.

105. There must be genuine global collaboration to achieve development, as the lack of sufficient means of implementation could hinder the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. Although sufficient financial resources existed, there was not enough money presently being invested in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, even though large amounts of money continued to be spent on military endeavours. Underdevelopment was the principal cause of the military conflicts and violent situations affecting millions of people around the world. Using financial resources to promote development instead would create a climate of peace and international security which would contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

106. Moreover, the architecture of monetary and financial institutions must be reformed to establish new regulations that satisfied the interests and needs of all countries, particularly developing countries. It would also be necessary to create an effective international mechanism to facilitate the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies to developing countries under favourable conditions. In addition, multilateral trade rules should be reformed to ensure full participation in international trade. Climate change must be addressed effectively on the basis of respecting shared but distinct responsibilities and the individual abilities of States in accordance with their historic contribution to the situation.

107. Furthermore, the imposition by developed countries of multilateral coercive economic,

commercial and financial measures on developing countries hindered the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, the embargo imposed on Cuba continued to cause shortages and was a serious economic obstacle to the country's sustainable development. In spite of such circumstances, Cuba had shared its resources to contribute to economic and social development in many countries in the South.

108. At the national level, Cuba was carrying out a democratic and participatory discussion with its population to develop an economic and social model for a prosperous and sustainable socialism, on the basis of a national plan for the country's economic and social development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. Many of the elements of the plan were in fact more ambitious than the content of the Agenda.

109. Lastly, since 2013, there had been an inclusive governmental mechanism to coordinate labour in national institutions, civil society and academia in order to implement the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

110. **Mr. Louati** (Tunisia) said that his country was implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in its policies through its national plan for the period from 2016 to 2020, which focussed on implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 for development. On the basis of the Goals and the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, Tunisia aimed to achieve targets including good governance, national economic progress, human development, social inclusion, regional development and an environmentally friendly economy.

111. Since gaining independence, Tunisia had made significant social progress by emphasizing the importance of education and health care, including sexual and reproductive health. In addition to demographic changes, national promotion of women's rights had led to an increase in school attendance. Looking ahead, Tunisia aimed to reduce the poverty rate by 2020 and include remote and marginalized regions in efforts to strengthen infrastructure. Moreover, there had been political reform to enhance good governance since the revolution of 2011, and measures had been adopted with regard to human rights, public administration, taxation, combating corruption and bribery.

112. Furthermore, Tunisia had strengthened its national partnership for development and appreciated the work of developed countries in providing assistance to

developing countries, particularly those attempting to overcome economic and social difficulties in the short term. Lastly, the international community should work to combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion in order to recuperate lost capital.

113. **Mr. Chungong** (Observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)) said that parliaments would play a key role in implementing the 2030 Agenda by adopting legislation and holding Governments to account. IPU believed that good governance, as represented by Goal 16, was a key driver of change. It would ensure that everyone's voice was heard and that politics was based on the common good rather than the interests of the few.

114. IPU was mainstreaming the Goals in its work and was developing tools to help parliaments institutionalize the Goals and create a legislative and oversight framework. It had asked all parliaments to adopt a motion or a resolution that took stock of the Goals and set out the steps needed to achieve them, and was developing a toolkit to help parliaments assess whether they were fit for purpose to implement the Agenda and identify means of implementation and institutional gaps. It had also asked the parliaments of countries participating in the voluntary reviews to report on the extent of their involvement in the process. At its spring meeting, the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs would devote a session to tracking how parliaments were dealing with the Sustainable Development Goals. IPU would continue to encourage members of parliament to attend the high-level political forum and would organize a parliamentary side event at each annual session of the forum to gather lessons learned from its members. Overall, its aim was to build political will and leadership, the two most crucial elements for successful implementation of the Agenda.

115. **Mr. Ndoutom** (Observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF)) said that his organization's strategic framework, adopted in 2014, had underlined the need for member countries to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in their policies. At their sixteenth summit in November 2016, the organization's Heads of State and Government would focus on shared growth and responsible development, an indication of their concern that no one should be left behind. OIF was proud that 10 of its member or observer countries had participated in the voluntary reviews. One of its subsidiary bodies, l'Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement

durable (IFDD), was supporting member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

116. The indivisibility of the Goals meant that new tools were required. In conjunction with universities in its member countries, in particular the University of Quebec, OIF had developed the concept of “analyse systémique de la durabilité”, or “systematic analysis of sustainability”, which would enable States to take rapid ownership of the Goals, prioritize the targets and optimize their use of resources. The concept emphasized the role of local communities and made it possible to tackle “orphan” issues such as gender equality.

117. OIF stood ready to implement the Agenda and share its tools and know-how. Its central aim was to build the capacity of its member States to meet the methodological challenges presented by the 2030 Agenda.

118. **Ms. El Agizy** (Observer for the League of Arab States) said that leaving no one behind was still an elusive dream in the Arab world. Instability in some Arab countries had brought about a failure of basic services and economic collapse, while shrinking public expenditure, budgetary deficits and falling prices for natural resources, especially oil, were daunting challenges. It would be impossible to implement the 2030 Agenda while also contending with conflict, occupation and a lack of resources.

119. However, there was light at the end of the tunnel. In its resolution 631, the summit of the League of Arab States had welcomed national implementation efforts. Most Arab countries were still working on cooperation and coordination at the national level and incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into national and regional plans, which included forging partnerships with the private sector, parliaments and civil society.

120. Lastly, national and regional data would be very important for transparent evaluation. The League of Arab States had been a focal point for identifying obstacles to implementation. In that regard, he paid tribute to Egypt and Morocco, which had volunteered for review of their implementation of the Agenda to date.

121. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), speaking on behalf of FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, said that the Rome-based agencies were committed to

leaving no one behind. Many of the food insecure were, paradoxically, food producers themselves. The situation was increasingly complicated by rising competition for resources and by climate change, which reduced the resilience of production systems and contributed to natural resource degradation. Poor families, which lacked coping mechanisms, were among the worst affected. They were often forced to go hungry, sell productive assets or leave their communities, and could also fall prey to extremism.

122. Growth of the agricultural sector was one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce poverty and end food insecurity in developing nations. Agriculture must become more sustainable and both climate change adaptation and mitigation should be pursued; they could be achieved through enhanced agricultural practices and a reduction in deforestation. Lastly, the participation of rural families and communities would be essential to achieving sustainable development.

123. **Mr. Al-Moumani** (Jordan) said that Jordan had embarked on its efforts to achieve the Goals in exceptional circumstances, as its population had risen by 20 per cent over the previous five years, principally owing to the arrival of refugees from conflict-afflicted areas. Such a sudden increase had had a negative impact on all aspects of development, including infrastructure. Nevertheless, Jordan took its international obligations very seriously and believed in achieving a balance between environment, society and the economy. It had been strengthening its institutional framework through a high-level national committee on sustainable development, established in 2002, and a road map for the implementation of sustainable development to 2025 at the local and regional levels, which was accompanied by indicators for monitoring progress. A new framework had also been developed on managing public sector investment.

124. **Mr. Pinheiro** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that, at its 105th conference in June 2016, ILO had adopted a resolution on advancing social justice through decent work, which had provided the organization with a strong mandate for supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda and contributing to follow-up and review mechanisms. It had been submitted as formal input to the high-level political forum of 2016.

125. The resolution requested that ILO support its member States in integrating decent work into national

sustainable development strategies and in aligning Decent Work Country Programmes with national sustainable development plans; develop a five-year strategic plan consistent with the 2030 Agenda; contribute to follow-up and review processes, including through the provision of technical support; strengthen the institutional capacity of member States and organizations representing employers and workers; foster policy coherence; and lead or engage in alliances relating to Goal 8. Also in line with the provisions of the resolution, the ILO contribution to Agenda review might be included in the agenda of the International Labour Conference.

126. **Ms. Puri** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that a gender equality compact had been adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda and States had pledged to leave no woman or girl behind. Gender inequality remained the most pervasive form of inequality and the 2030 Agenda would not be successfully implemented unless all women and girls were living a life free from discrimination, violence and want. The States that had participated in the voluntary reviews and countries that had made statements had made it clear that there could be no sustainable development without gender equality.

127. Sustainable Development Goal 5 was a targeted goal but systematic gender mainstreaming was also crucial to its implementation. For the transformative potential of the Goals to be realized, it would be necessary to build on their interrelatedness. In the conclusions reached at its sixtieth session in March 2016, the Commission on the Status of Women had translated the concept of gender-responsive implementation into concrete priority areas for action: enhancing national institutional arrangements; strengthening non-discriminatory legal and policy frameworks to reach the women and girls furthest behind; and closing longstanding budgetary gaps to ensure financing for gender equality.

128. **Ms. Killen** (Observer for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)) said that OECD was committed to bringing about the world States wanted, but both policy and political coherence would be needed. At the organization's ministerial meeting in June 2016, she had presented an action plan for using existing data and tools to build national capacity and achieve the Goals. OECD was also developing a new tool that would help member

countries determine their respective starting points and the work that needed to be done. In addition, OECD would examine the spillover effects of member States' policies and how they affected the ability of other States to achieve the Goals. OECD member States would demonstrate their commitment to the Goals by leading the way, while OECD would use its strengths in analysis, capacity-building and policy development to support all countries.

129. Nevertheless, OECD was not diverting its attention away from the poorest; it was modernizing its use of official development assistance and bilateral aid to the poorest countries had increased by 4 per cent in real terms in 2015. OECD believed that collaboration was the key to achievement of the Goals and was working in partnership with national and local governments, the private sector and civil society.

130. **Mr. McFarlane** (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)) said that disasters could undermine progress towards sustainable development and a risk-informed Agenda would be vital, as would action to address climate change. Disasters had taken a heavy toll over the past two decades: total losses had amounted to over \$1.5 trillion, while average annual losses from disasters in low-income countries represented 22 per cent of annual social expenditure and over 50 per cent in some cases. Disaster risk reduction was therefore an essential element of leaving no one behind.

131. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 had responded to those concerns and had recognized that investments and development choices must be risk-informed. There were fundamental links between the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, and 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals had targets related to disaster risk reduction.

132. With a view to achieving greater coherence within the United Nations system and ensuring that all United Nations support of the Sustainable Development Goals was risk-informed, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination had adopted the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in May 2016. Progress towards reducing disaster risk would be tracked by the Sendai Framework monitoring

mechanisms, which were being aligned with Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and by the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

133. **Ms. Blackshaw** (Technical Officer, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)) said that a political declaration had been adopted at the General Assembly's high-level meeting on ending AIDS in June 2016 that set ambitious targets for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Too many people were currently being left behind in the response to AIDS, including men who had sex with men, sex workers, prisoners and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. Half of people living with HIV had no access to treatment. In their declaration, Member States had committed to reversing those trends by addressing persistent inequalities. Notably, it had been the first declaration within the United Nations system to include transgender people. Of particular relevance to the high-level political forum, given its role in monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda, was the fact that countries had committed to increasing the availability of high-quality disaggregated data and to introducing mutual accountability mechanisms. The declaration also called for greater investment in engaging people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV in advocacy and leadership roles. The AIDS response had strong foundations on which to build in order to meet those commitments and spur progress across the Agenda. Young people were already leading the way by establishing youth-led and data-driven accountability mechanisms in the areas of sexual health and reproductive rights.

134. **Mr. Borrero** (International Indian Treaty Council), speaking on behalf of the indigenous peoples major group, said that the voluntary reviews had revealed some emerging good practices. In Finland and Norway, representative bodies of indigenous peoples had been consulted and included in Sustainable Development Goal planning mechanisms. More generally, commitments had been made to disaggregate data for policy review, and the Group extended its full cooperation to data disaggregation by ethnicity and indigenous identifiers to ensure the specific conditions and perspectives of indigenous peoples were captured. Partnerships with all stakeholders would be essential as States could not implement the Agenda alone, but mechanisms for accountability and the protection of human rights and the environment would be needed to

ensure that such partnerships were equitable and supported the sustainable use of resources, including those of indigenous peoples. He encouraged States to adopt those good practices.

135. **Mr. Drexhage** (Coop Carbone), speaking on behalf of the business and industry major group, said that good governance and open markets were essential for development to take root. Business was the biggest engine of poverty reduction and economic growth in the developing world and would be a major source of the \$1 trillion needed annually to advance sustainable development. The group fully recognized that the roles and responsibilities of business also extended to its social and environmental impact. It was time to think outside the box, which included rejecting outdated and counterproductive characterizations. Sustainable development was increasingly recognized as a core feature of long-term success in the private sector. Working with Governments, multilateral institutions and civil society towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was the only way to achieve a prosperous future for all.

136. **Mr. Allen** (International Disability Alliance and World Federation of the Deaf), speaking on behalf of the stakeholder group of persons with disabilities, said that Dr. Andersson, a former president of the World Federation of the Deaf and the first deaf sign language user to address the General Assembly in 1992, had passed away on 18 July 2016. He wished to acknowledge Dr. Andersson's legacy of fighting for greater awareness of deaf issues around the world.

137. Globally, there were one billion persons with disabilities and Governments must work closely with them on Agenda implementation. While the Millennium Development Goals had not included persons with disabilities, the 2030 Agenda contained 11 specific references to disability. There were 22 people from groups representing persons with disabilities in the room; persons with disabilities wanted to work with Governments at the global level and their contributions would be vital to national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

138. **Mr. Etyang** (East African Trade Union Confederation), speaking on behalf of the workers and trade unions major group, said that rising inequality risked leaving many people behind. High inequality had significant socioeconomic costs and was at odds with established paths to sustainable development.

Social dialogue, freedom of association and collective bargaining were useful indicators in national reviews and, in light of global trends, the importance of social dialogue and collective bargaining in combating inequality should not be underestimated. Social dialogue brought the social partners together and was a means of implementation that supported all three pillars of sustainable development. Lastly, the International Labour Organization would play a fundamental role in monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

139. **Ms. Beales** (HelpAge International), speaking on behalf of the stakeholder group on ageing, said that action to leave no one behind represented an historic opportunity to end discrimination and exclusion on the basis of age. Everyone counted and should be counted, and life-cycle planning from the cradle to the grave was essential. Target 18 of Goal 17 called for a significant increase in data disaggregation, including by age. Fully delivering on that target would require cross-sectoral collaboration such as the integration of citizen-generated data. The voice of civil society, including older persons, was needed in national Sustainable Development Goal units, which must function at the highest level of Government. National budgets must be transparent and the input of civil society, including older persons, must be sought in the preparation of national and global reviews submitted to the high-level political forum. In summary, a change of mindset would be required if no one was to be left behind: business as usual was no longer a viable option.

140. **Ms. Arámbula Carillo** (Corporativa de Fundaciones), speaking on behalf of 38 national and local organizations working to implement the 2030 Agenda in Mexico, said that situating the Agenda at the executive level reflected the importance accorded to it by the Government. However, greater efforts were needed to involve all social actors in the process. Local and State governments, the private sector and civil society organizations should participate in Agenda implementation; Government entities should devise transparent, inclusive and effective implementation processes; and a national sustainable development strategy should be adopted. Over the past month, hundreds of thousands of people had mobilized in Mexico, a reflection of society's interest in participating in implementation of the Agenda.

141. **Ms. Brand** (Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary) said that it would be impossible to fulfil the commitment to leave no one behind unless those furthest behind were prioritized. Many people were not being counted, such as children whose births had never been registered and unaccompanied minors. Owing to their invisibility in national statistics, they were often excluded from development programmes and were vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

142. Those at the bottom of the ladder could make a valuable contribution to local strategies and their active participation should be encouraged at all stages. They provided vital input on human well-being and care of the environment as well as economic growth.

143. **Mr. Shea** (IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association) said that ensuring that no one was left behind was about eradicating poverty, creating a social protection floor and determining the magnitude of economic inequality both within and between countries. The scale of the problem would become apparent as those areas were monitored between 2016 and 2030. The global indicator framework represented a far-reaching realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 10 and 17 reflected articles 13, 15, 17, 22, 23 and 25 of the Declaration. Overall inequality had a negative impact on everyone, even in rich countries like the United States.

144. **Mr. Ho Patrick** (China Energy Fund Committee) said that 1.2 billion people still lived in extreme poverty and 850 million people remained chronically undernourished, yet one third of the food produced for human consumption was wasted. Moreover, 1.2 billion people had no access to electricity while 5 per cent of the world's population consumed 20 per cent of its energy. In developed countries, infrastructure projects must focus on creating communities that were more frugal and more resource efficient and on encouraging sustainable production and consumption. Nevertheless, even when the right infrastructure was in place, resources such as food and water were often carelessly used. There must be a commitment to educating the public on sustainable lifestyles and which called for responsible use of the world's resources. A sustainable lifestyle for all must become an overarching concept and sustainability a principle that was practised on a daily basis.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.