



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
9 November 2016

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 15th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 18 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Nipomici (Vice-Chair) (Republic of Moldova)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence
(A/71/168, A/71/222, A/71/422 and A/71/539)

(a) Globalization and interdependence

(b) International migration and development
(A/71/296)

1. **Mr. Islam** (Development Policy Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues in the light of the New International Economic Order” (A/71/168), said that the report, covering the period from 2014 to 2016, referred to the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted by the General Assembly in 1974 in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

2. The original Declaration and Programme of Action had been aimed at correcting inequalities, redressing injustices, eliminating the gap between developed and developing countries, and ensuring steadily accelerating economic and social development, and peace and justice. Since the world’s situation had changed over time, the General Assembly had asked the Secretary-General to address specific issues in the report.

3. There were four parts to the report, found in sections II to V. Like the previous biennial reports on the New International Economic Order, the first two parts described short-term challenges to sustained economic growth, while section III addressed medium and long-term challenges to inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. Section IV was a new part of the report that addressed how the three monumental intergovernmental outcomes of the reporting period — the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement under the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — reflected the original proposals of the New International Economic Order. Section V had also been included in previous reports and considered the role of the United Nations in addressing the current situation.

4. In section II of the report it was noted that the period 2014-2016 contained more challenges than previous reporting periods, such as a slowdown in economic growth in developing countries and declining commodity prices and trade flows. Developed countries had not yet reached the target of providing 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as official development assistance (ODA). In view of the challenges, the prospects of global recovery remained weak and presented a risk to public investment in poverty reduction, education, health and action on climate change and the related goals established in the recent intergovernmental outcomes. Stability remained a challenge.

5. Section III of the report covered the different reviews of progress on the Millennium Development Goals. Despite progress — more than 1 billion people had exited extreme poverty since 1990 — many big challenges remained and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals had been included in the Sustainable Development Goals. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets were also considered in the report; some were on track while progress on many others remained slow. On climate change, a positive aspect noted in the report was that, in 2015, total greenhouse gas emission reductions of 2 per cent and 1.5 per cent had been achieved by the United States of America and China respectively. Worrisome aspects, however, included the continued increase in the overall volume of carbon dioxide emissions, albeit at a slower pace, and the fact that atmospheric carbon concentration had already exceeded 400 parts per million.

6. It was clear from section IV that the three intergovernmental outcomes of the reporting period reflected the ideas and objectives of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, which demonstrated their continued importance. In particular, the open, transparent and participatory process through which the Sustainable Development Goals had been adopted reflected the call of the New International Economic Order for full and effective participation on the basis of

equality of all countries in the solving of world economic problems. Similarly, the right of every country to adopt the economic and social system that it deemed the most appropriate for its own development and not to be subjected to discrimination of any kind as a result, the inclusion of specific goals on economic growth and employment, and industry and infrastructure, and the nexus approach of integrating different goals also reflected the ideas of the New International Economic Order. Issues related to the environment, inequality, wastage, justice and universality had also featured therein.

7. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda reflected the spirit of the New International Economic Order in areas such as national control of natural resources, favourable terms of trade for developing countries, reforms of the Bretton Woods institutions, technology transfer, development assistance, debt and debt sustainability, and South-South cooperation. Calls for the issuance of special drawing rights for development purposes had been proposed forcefully by the New International Economic Order in 1974, while its focus on South-South cooperation had been pioneering.

8. The Paris Agreement was aligned with the New International Economic Order with regard to the principles of equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities. The Paris Agreement paid greater attention to adaptation, which reflected the increased emphasis on the needs of developing countries called for in the New International Economic Order. Other relevant areas were technology transfer, capacity-building and attention to special groups of countries, such as landlocked developing countries and special groups of middle-income countries. While the voluntary principle in the Paris Agreement reflected the sovereignty of individual countries, as emphasized in the New International Economic Order, it was unclear whether voluntary contributions alone would add up to the amount required to meet the aims of the Paris Agreement.

9. In the final part of the report, section V, it was noted that the enhanced role of the United Nations already envisaged in the New International Economic Order was increasingly materializing. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement had highlighted the central role of the United Nations and several new forums and processes

reflected its greater role. The high-level political forum on sustainable development was a notable example.

10. **Ms. Roudil** (Director, New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), introducing the report of the Director General of UNESCO on the implementation of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2015, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (A/71/222), said that the General Assembly had proclaimed 2015 the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies and had requested UNESCO to act as the lead agency for that initiative.

11. Knowledge sharing and technology transfer under the 2030 Agenda were evident in the issue of artificial light, a scientific development that the United Nations used in its work all day long but which was not available to all. Globally, around 1.1 billion people did not have access to energy and reliable lighting infrastructure. A central aim of the International Year was to raise awareness because eradicating light poverty was a vital step in addressing numerous development goals. The International Year had celebrated important milestones in the history of the science and technologies of light, including the creation, one thousand years previously, of the camera obscura and a pioneering book of optics by Ibn Al-Haytham. Scientific theories that were celebrated included the notion of light as a wave proposed by Fresnel in 1815, the electromagnetic theory of light propagation proposed by Maxwell in 1865 and Einstein's theory of the photoelectric effect proposed in 1905.

12. The International Year had been an auspicious occasion for UNESCO to raise awareness of the potential of light and related technologies to solve problems in the interests of progress and sustainable development. Citizens around the world had been encouraged to participate in celebrations. Global coverage had been achieved through the establishment of 94 national coordinating committees. Combined, a total of 13,168 activities had covered 147 countries and all continents. It was estimated that 100 million people had been reached.

13. Those activities had advanced the 2030 Agenda in many ways, ranging from capacity-building for research and innovation, to science policy briefs and

information meetings on light science and sustainable development. Several Governments had officially recognized or highlighted the International Year, including the Governments of the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. There had been a reported 23,000 distinct media mentions of the International Year and over 100 light-themed videos had been produced for science and outreach purposes. Stamps had been issued in 26 countries, a giant logo of the International Year had been built in the North Sea and exhibitions had been organized in parks, airports, galleries and other public spaces in 40 countries. A UNESCO teacher training programme, Active Learning in Optics and Photonics, had involved Indonesia, Mauritius and South Africa, among others, while a regional conference and exhibition had taken place in Ghana in September 2015. Many countries had chosen light as the theme for national science education initiatives, such as the Spark of Light programme in Bangladesh and the organization of “science weeks” on the topic of light in Australia, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mexico. The European Commission had provided €2.65 million to promote light science and careers in photonics.

14. Gender parity in science was a major theme tackled by the International Year that had been addressed with programmes on education for girls and by showcasing female role models. Solar-based energy and energy-efficient light-emitting diodes had been encouraged: the “Human energy project” installation had promoted renewable energy sources to light up the Eiffel Tower. The activities resonated with the goals of the Paris Agreement. The International Year had also focused on cooperation and had created opportunities for South-South and South-North cooperation in science, technology and innovation and stronger partnerships. The International Year had helped Member States to answer questions about equitable and inclusive growth and poverty eradication, and would contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9.

15. **Mr. Wilmoth** (Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/71/296), said that on 19 September 2016, at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, Heads of State and

Government had adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (General Assembly resolution 71/1). That Declaration contained a commitment to launch, in 2016, a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration at an intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018. The President of the General Assembly had been invited to appoint two co-facilitators to lead open, transparent and inclusive consultations for the determination of the modalities of the conference, with a view to beginning negotiations on the global compact in early 2017.

16. For many years, the Committee had considered international migration and development on a biennial basis. During the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly however, it had been decided to hold the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development no later than 2019 and to hold high-level dialogues at regular intervals thereafter. The dates and modalities of the next and future such dialogues would be decided at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

17. It was noted in the report that, as a key feature of globalization, international migration highlighted increasing interdependence between countries. Furthermore, the number of international migrants worldwide had increased by 60 per cent since 1990 and that trend was set to continue. In developed regions, a net inflow of international migrants was expected to be the main driver of population growth between 2000 and 2020, and the sole driver of growth in later decades. It was also noted that the ratification of legal instruments relating to international migration remained uneven; approximately three-quarters of Member States had ratified instruments relating to refugees and criminal activities such as human trafficking, while barely one-quarter of Member States had ratified conventions pertaining to the rights and working conditions of migrant workers and their families. The report also highlighted certain initiatives taken by the United Nations system, in particular the Global Migration Group, following the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

18. He drew attention to the proposals made in the report, in paragraphs 76 and 77, regarding future high-level dialogues. Three scenarios were presented for the

timing of the Third High-level Dialogue. During the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants it had been decided that future dialogues should review relevant aspects of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. In addition, that Declaration stated that the Third High-level Dialogue should have a role in developing the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The work of the Committee regarding the modalities of the Third High-level Dialogue should be aligned with negotiations on modalities for the intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018, since the two outcomes were closely linked. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs was committed to supporting both processes in collaboration with all relevant partners, in particular the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which had become the newest member of the United Nations family on 19 September 2016.

19. **Ms. Premabhuti** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that globalization created a promising path to development but brought risks and challenges that could be addressed with coordinated action at the global level. The New International Economic Order, which sought sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, reinforced the 2030 Agenda, which placed poverty eradication at its core and affirmed the commitment to achieving economic, social and environmental sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner. In a rapidly evolving context, the New International Economic Order was more relevant than ever. Although much had been achieved since 1974, much remained to be done, since inequality and uneven gains were evident around the world. The international community could not rest until it had made certain that those hard-earned gains were irreversible and that no one had been left behind.

20. Against that backdrop, and in light of the New International Economic Order and the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations was best positioned to strengthen international cooperation. The importance of the transfer of science and technologies on favourable terms should be highlighted, including through concessional and preferential terms and by furthering North-South and South-South and triangular, regional and international cooperation to jointly address global challenges.

21. In addition to the growing impact of climate change, no nation had fully recovered from economic downturns, volatile exchange rates and commodity prices, high unemployment and feeble global investment. Developing countries and transitional economies were particularly affected, which threatened to widen the gap between developed and developing countries. Without bold action, the achievement of sustainable development would be severely impeded, since trade and investment were indispensable and powerful engines for development and sustained economic growth.

22. It was high time to realize the New International Economic Order, with a view to strengthening the voice of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and governance, and undertaking the necessary reforms for coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems, while respecting each country's policy space. As the world reached its highest point of interdependence, the Group called on developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments, with a view to creating an enabling environment for developing countries, so that they could sustain long-term economic growth and unlock their full potential.

23. The multidimensional and complex nexus between migration and development could not be overemphasized. The Group fully recognized the positive contributions of migration, migrants and human mobility to inclusive growth and sustainable development. It recommitted to strengthening international cooperation to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, while ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the humane treatment of all migrants and their families, in particular those in vulnerable situations. The Group looked forward to achieving a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration that would present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility and deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects.

24. Migration policies should be developed to effectively manage mixed and irregular migrant flows and minimize the negative impacts of migration by countering racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia

and related intolerance against migrants, and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of nationality, religion or belief, and by correcting the public perception of migrants.

25. Remittances must not be counted as direct foreign investment, ODA or other public sources of financing for development. Rather, they constituted an important source of private capital, for which faster and safer transfers and cheaper transaction costs should be promoted.

26. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that globalization and interdependence presented opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While globalization and interdependence were constructive forces for sustainable development by transforming lives, inequalities persisted and, in the previous three decades, the economic gap between rich and poor countries had widened at a disquieting pace.

27. Two months previously, the Association's Economic Ministers had exchanged views on recent global developments and their impact on economic performance and integration in the region. Despite concerns over the diminished outlook for global growth, ASEAN continued to be a significant contributor to global growth with a collective gross domestic product (GDP) of \$2.43 trillion in 2015. The Association had seen positive achievements in its regional integration initiatives and remained relatively resilient in the midst of global uncertainties.

28. The Association was committed to building on the region's strengths to establish a high-growth, sustainable and resilient economic community, with a view to deeper integration. The aim was to transform the region into a highly competitive single market and production base, with equitable economic development that was fully integrated in the global community.

29. The ASEAN Economic Community would establish ASEAN as a dynamic and competitive single market with strengthened economic initiatives and new mechanisms to enhance the free flow of goods, services, investments, capital and the mobility of labour. For instance, the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework would facilitate regional labour mobility and had been endorsed by Ministers for the

Economy, Labour and Education in countries in the region. Another example was the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, which included managed mobility and facilitated entry for natural persons who traded in goods, services and investments. Alongside recognition of the contribution of professionals and skilled workers to national and regional development, there was a responsibility to promote the full potential and dignity of migrant workers by providing a climate of freedom, equity and stability, in accordance with domestic legislation. Furthermore, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 promoted equitable access to opportunities for all ASEAN peoples and protection of the human rights of vulnerable groups, including migrant workers. Steps to protect and promote the rights of migrants included the finalization of a dedicated ASEAN instrument and the establishment of a committee and two commissions to implement and promote human rights, in particular the rights of migrant workers, women and children.

30. There was a greater need than ever for well-managed migration policy and governance. The Association was committed to supporting the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

31. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that a variety of factors spanning demographic, economic, environmental and geopolitical forces were increasingly driving international migration. According to the World Bank Group, increased drought, desertification and rising sea levels were likely to increase internal and international migration. A recent study had found that, in affected areas, climate change factors accounted for one-tenth to one-fifth of current migration.

32. Migration was particularly relevant to the development of countries of origin, transit and destination. The complex interrelationship between migration and development posed opportunities and challenges. While migration facilitated the movement of goods, entrepreneurial skills and capital it also involved costs, such as the brain drain of professionals and highly-skilled workers. The importance of migration for development had been recognized in the 2030 Agenda, which had included targets on migration and related issues. Despite increasing globalization,

social mobility remained limited and subject to high protectionism. In an interconnected world, goods, services and other production factors needed to be able to move freely.

33. Certain aspects should be considered in order to promote safe, orderly and regular migration and to derive increased benefits from migration. First, migration and mobility should be placed at the centre of global development discussions. There must be strong synergies between international migration and development at all levels. In that regard, the Group welcomed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

34. Second, illiberal ideology and protectionist policies often led to human trafficking and illegal migration. In 2016 alone, more than 4,300 migrants had died on their journeys. That figure compelled the international community to act collectively. Free and liberalized labour markets, particularly in developed countries, would address the challenges. Circular migration of highly-skilled workers should be considered, particularly in the health, social and engineering sectors. Home and host countries should provide continuous skills development. Members of the World Trade Organization had obligations in that regard. The Group called for the implementation, without further delay, of the Bali Ministerial Decision of 7 December 2013 entitled “Operationalization of the Waiver Concerning Preferential Treatment to Services and Service Suppliers of Least-Developed Countries”. Internationally agreed norms should set the costs related to migration. Private-public partnerships were important and the United Nations system should play a major role in that regard.

35. Third, protection of migrants in their countries of origin, transit and destination was an enduring challenge. Migrants’ human rights, irrespective of their status, should be binding in all countries, in accordance with the relevant United Nations treaties. Appropriate recognition, equal rights and privileges, social integration, access to health and education and mutual recognition of qualifications were essential to fully benefiting from migration.

36. Fourth, the absence of strong global governance of international migration provided a safe haven for unscrupulous actors. It was time to design robust migration governance architecture under the auspices

of the United Nations. Effective migration governance required institutional and legal frameworks that could deal with all aspects of migration. The ninth summit meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Dhaka in December 2016, would provide a platform to deliberate on the governance of international migration.

37. Finally, remittances constituted an important source of private capital that complemented domestic savings. They were instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients and could not be equated to other sources of public finance for development. The economic benefits of migration would be greatly enhanced by achieving the target set out in the 2030 Agenda namely, by 2030, to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent. Measures, such as diaspora bonds, should be introduced at country level to ensure the productive investment of remittances. The World Bank Group had established a Task Force for the Implementation of Diaspora Bonds to provide technical assistance to its clients, an initiative that should be extended to all of the least developed countries. All of those priorities should be duly reflected in a balanced and flexible manner in the global compact to be adopted by the General Assembly in 2018.

38. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines) said that, since 2014, much had changed with regard to migration. The 2030 Agenda, through its cross-cutting developmental and rights-based approach, recognized the positive contributions of migrants and mobility to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and committed to strengthening international cooperation to ensure full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of migration status.

39. The Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held no later than 2019, should be approached in light of the commitment in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations in 2016 that would lead to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018. The New York Declaration had expressly provided for the High-level Dialogue to have a role in the process of elaboration of the global compact on migration and in reviewing relevant

aspects of the Declaration. Given that the First and Second High-level Dialogues had paved the way for the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda, the following and subsequent dialogues should focus on and contribute to the elaboration of the multidimensional and developmental aspects of migration in the global compact. That approach would retain the independent yet interrelated status of the Dialogue in relation to the global compact.

40. The work of the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration Development was welcome, as both bodies were critical to mainstreaming migration issues at the United Nations and in the global development agenda. Following the recent entry of IOM into the United Nations system, she looked forward to details on its updated role and working relationship with the Global Migration Group and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She also looked forward to the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, due before the end of 2016, which was expected to propose ways of strengthening international cooperation and the engagement of the United Nations on migration.

41. **Ms. Requeira** (Cuba) said that the role of the United Nations had never been so important to promoting development. Achieving sustainable development involved recognizing and respecting the diverse visions, models and instruments of all peoples and taking into account their distinctive characteristics. Respect for their sovereign decisions to develop as they wished was an indispensable condition of strengthening and legitimizing the United Nations. The 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the implementation of internationally adopted agreements, including regional development programmes, could only yield coherent and tangible outcomes with the participation of the United Nations.

42. Cuba wished to reiterate that it was imperative to establish a New International Economic Order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interests and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their social and economic systems. Such an Order must correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic

and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations.

43. The speed of globalization, fostered by progress in science, technology and innovation, had shown a widening of the development gap between North and South. Cuba looked forward to progress on the various science and technology initiatives under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to improve regional and international cooperation, as well as North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in that sphere.

44. There was a need to overcome the unfair and exclusionary international economic order that endangered people when they tried to emigrate to improve their standard of living. Cuba, which strongly advocated for the principle of legal, safe and orderly migration, promoted international cooperation that guaranteed dialogue and genuine collaboration and acknowledged the shared responsibility of all States on matters of migration. Such cooperation respected the sovereign equality of all States, the tenets of the Charter of the United Nations, and the integrity, dignity and well-being of migrants.

45. The Cuban Adjustment Act, which conferred preferential treatment on Cuban citizens who migrated to the United States, was unique: it allowed for their automatic entry into that country while other nationalities were returned to their countries of origin. The Act victimized migrants and encouraged people smuggling and irregular migration directly from Cuban territory and third countries. It also affected Cuban citizens travelling abroad legally.

46. While the international financial and economic environment was hardly conducive to the work of the United Nations to promote development, Cuba remained fully committed to equity, social justice and full development for all.

47. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that a number of serious challenges had emerged in the wake of globalization; they included the global financial crisis — which had been unprecedented in scale because of the extent of financial integration — and terrorism, which brought home the collective nature of security. Other challenges were the spread of pandemics, social media as a force for change and conflicts that led to large-scale movements of refugees to distant lands. Global

collective interdependence was demonstrated by the recognition of the human impact on global warming. Success in concluding the Paris Agreement was testimony to collective concern, as was the recently adopted Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The importance of sustainable development for the collective peace, prosperity and security of all was being recognized; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 were examples of that. India continued to play its part in strengthening multilateral efforts to address climate change and sustainable development challenges.

48. Human mobility had shaped the world. India hosted several communities that had sought shelter and refuge over the centuries and was also a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. India welcomed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and looked forward to contributing to deliberations on a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Indian tradition viewed the entire world as one family, a view that manifested in openness and respect for diversity, and a spirit of coexistence and cooperation for greater strength. In that vein, the Prime Minister of India had called for development for all. Calls for protectionism and growing intolerance were misguided and anachronistic. Globally, destinies were interlinked and a more mature and cooperative approach was needed. It was important not to succumb to narrow competitive instincts, which were counterproductive. Global governance needed to be more democratic and more representative to manage the complex, interdependent world.

49. **Mr. Skinner-Klée** (Guatemala) said that the 2030 Agenda gave human beings a central place in sustainable development. Globalization and interdependence, particularly with regard to international migration and development, were interrelated concepts, since a lack of development caused populations to migrate in search of opportunities for a better life. A rapid response — with a different rhetoric and a different approach — was required to tackle the underlying and structural causes of migration, which was a historic and current phenomenon that had arisen at every level, from local to global.

50. The 2030 Agenda acknowledged the position of migrants in inclusive and sustainable development; the world was a better place because of the contribution of migrants. The 2030 Agenda showed that it was possible to facilitate orderly, safe and responsible migration by applying well-managed migration policies. The recognition in that instrument of the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants made it the duty of the international community to take action.

51. Discussions of migration and development must focus on improving migratory governance at the local, regional and international levels, since the benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration were often underestimated. Given the importance of migration, Guatemala also supported the preparatory process to adopt a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration by 2018.

52. According to the World Bank Group, migrant remittance inflows to developing countries amounted to more than \$441 billion. That cash flow represented over 10 per cent of GDP in around 25 developing countries and led to increased investments in health, education and small businesses in many communities. Remittances therefore played a decisive role in the well-being of communities and reduced poverty in recipient countries. Guatemala was the country in Latin America and the Caribbean with the highest level of growth in remittances between 2014 and 2015, at 15.20 per cent, according to the think tank Inter-American Dialogue.

53. Pragmatic associations among countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as non-governmental organizations, could provide tangible support for the well-being of migrants and increase their contribution to development. Alliances for the inclusion of migrants and the protection of their rights were particularly important in the light of emerging challenges associated with the relationship between mobility and security. Such matters should be guided by the principle of shared responsibility and by a development-based approach. One good example was the Alliance for Prosperity Plan in the Northern Triangle, which had been agreed by El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras with the involvement of Mexico and the United States of America. Its primary purpose was stimulating the productive sector to create economic opportunities, developing growth

opportunities, improving public safety and enhancing access to legal systems, and strengthening institutions to increase people's trust in the State.

54. Lastly, he recalled that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that migration should be an option rather than a necessity.

55. **Mr. Fondukov** (Russian Federation) said that the adoption and initial implementation of the 2030 Agenda indicated the growing interdependence of all countries and the need for joint efforts to leave no one behind. Ongoing instability in the world economy, which was evident in the slowdown in the economies of developing countries and in the lack of economic recovery in developed countries, was a cause for serious concern. Volatility in commodity and food prices, the continuation of unilateral economic sanctions and a persistent disregard for the principles of sovereign debt restructuring exacerbated the situation and hindered achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, much depended on strengthening the role of the United Nations in regulating international economic relations in coordination with the Bretton Woods institutions, the Group of 20, Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and other multilateral associations.

56. The United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants had confirmed the need for balanced collective action on migration. The Russian Federation stood ready for constructive cooperation to implement the decisions of that Summit. The Russian Federation supported the recommendations made in the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/71/296), which reflected global trends in population movement. The implementation of migration-related items under the 2030 Agenda would make a significant contribution to sustainable development. Member States should focus on collecting and analysing data on migration flows for the timely planning and adaptation of national development strategies in countries of origin, transit and destination. Dialogue should be encouraged between interested parties on a voluntary basis and within existing formats, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development and regional mechanisms. Such cooperation and the development of partnerships would help to achieve practical and action-oriented

results at the national, regional and global levels. Increasing cooperation between United Nations agencies through the Global Migration Group was welcome, as it would promote coordinated action and reduced overlaps in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. The decision on when to hold the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should be made in view of the need to prepare for the intergovernmental conference in 2018 and also facilitate the review of progress on the 2030 Agenda by the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

58. In the Russian Federation, the priorities for migration management were facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, defending migrants' rights and establishing safe conditions for migrants and refugees. Migration policy should be founded on high-quality and reliable data. The Russian Federation stood ready to exchange its experience in migration management with all interested parties.

59. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that international migration had an increasing impact on poverty alleviation and development efforts in countries of origin and destination. The continued growth of international migration, a structural reliance on migrant labour and the continued recovery of the global economy would combine to fuel annual migrant remittances of at least \$500 billion. Unprecedented levels of human mobility were due to an integrated global economy and the ease of travel, and that had complex implications for North-South and South-South relations and their economies. Global approaches, involving developed and developing countries and States of origin and destination, were needed to address those complex effects. Global policy efforts must focus on better cooperation and dialogue among countries, and address the issues of fair burden-sharing, facilitating remittance flows and protecting labour rights, including the fundamental human rights of migrant workers. In that context, the inclusion of migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda was encouraging.

60. In Sri Lanka, migration and remittances had a micro and macro impact on the economy, since nearly 1.7 million Sri Lankans worked or lived abroad. Remittance inflows accounted for approximately 8 per

cent of GDP and played a countercyclical role during domestic shocks. The profile of Sri Lankan migrant workers had gradually shifted towards the professional and skilled worker categories and migrant workers' skills were improving. Programmes and schemes — including insurance, scholarships, assisted repatriation and pre-departure training — had been implemented to ensure dignity, security and equal treatment for Sri Lankan nationals seeking employment overseas. Each migrant worker who left the country was registered and provided with access to those benefits.

61. Sri Lanka had ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1996 and would continue contributing to the strengthening of multilateral policy frameworks and sharing its experience with the global community. As a founding member of the Regional Consultative Process on the Management of Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origins in Asia, known as the Colombo Process, Sri Lanka shared experiences, lessons learned, policy frameworks and best practices on overseas employment with its member countries. The fourth Senior Officials' Meeting of the Colombo Process had been held in August 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It had highlighted migrant workers' contributions to economic growth and development, which was critical to their countries and a catalyst for upward socioeconomic mobility in the region.

62. Despite more complex migration patterns, it was essential to protect migrants' rights. Special attention should be paid to the diverse impacts of the feminization of international migration. He called on Member States to more proactively support the protection of migrant workers' rights in order to utilize full the potential of international migration to achieve sustainable development.

63. **Mr. Alsulaim** (Saudi Arabia) said that international migration contributed to development in countries of origin through three main pillars: remittances, knowledge transfer, and trade and investment projects carried out by migrants. Saudi Arabia paid particular attention to the issues of sustainable development and future global development. There was a need for factual studies on the issues and challenges linked to migration. An

acceptable definition of “migrant” should be established, in order that the term did not include the concept of foreign workers, who differed completely from migrants. Foreign workers were governed by the labour regulations in different countries and their work contracts, which identified their rights and obligations. In that regard, further work was needed to develop the relevant information and legislative environments for incorporation in the Sustainable Development Goals.

64. Saudi Arabia shared the concerns of the international community on migration, especially illegal migration, which compelled countries to change their development plans and was accompanied by financial and security burdens. It also shared a belief in the need for research to find solutions to people smuggling and criminal activities. The increase in xenophobic acts against non-citizens was a cause of serious concern and a form of racism against migrants, who were often unlawfully detained on arrival in new countries. Negative perceptions of migrants in host communities should be addressed, in accordance with international instruments on human rights and poverty eradication efforts, in order to enhance migrants' contribution to development.

65. Saudi Arabia had attracted a large number of foreign temporary workers — over 10 million from more than 100 countries — who contributed to construction projects, the service industry and national productivity. Foreign workers were an economic resource for labour exporting countries; their annual remittances amounted to more than \$400 billion. Their contracts were agreed in coordination with labour exporting countries. Saudi Arabia was the second largest exporter of remittances. Large-scale labour market reforms implemented in 2015 had covered, among other areas, the principles of contractual arrangements and regulations on domestic workers had been ratified to protect the interests and rights of workers and employers.

66. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that, while globalization had created opportunities for some people and countries, it had introduced new risks to many more and was associated with the accentuation of inequalities. The 2030 Agenda was intended to revitalize globalization to improve people's well-being and the priority should be to strike a balance between economic growth and social progress, stability and

growth, expansion and inclusion, and productivity increases and employment creation. However, decent living conditions must be the fundamental objective.

67. The Second Committee could take measures to support those aims. First, national development efforts should be supported by promoting an enabling international environment with steady and accelerated economic development. There was a need for coherent and mutually supporting world trade, digital technology and monetary and financial systems, strengthened global economic governance and respect for each country's policy space. Second, coordination of countries' macroeconomic policies should be stepped up, to avoid negative spillover effects. Third, financial reforms should be implemented promptly and consistently, and international regulatory cooperation should be strengthened. The quota and governance reforms of the International Monetary Fund agreed in 2010 should also be prioritized.

68. Globalization, underpinned and driven by individuals, had led to unprecedented levels of human mobility. The complex interrelationship between international migration and development needed systematic management at the global, regional and national levels. The challenges and opportunities that migration presented to countries of origin, transit and destination must be addressed. In that regard, and under the 2030 Agenda, safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, would be important. Since work was a primary reason for migration, international labour standards should be respected and promoted for migrants in their workplaces, including for women migrant workers involved in domestic work. Indonesia had initiated the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime to manage migrants at the global level. The Bali Process allowed countries in the region to share the burden and responsibility of large movements of irregular migrants.

69. **Mr. Tong** (Singapore) said that, as the pace of globalization had accelerated, so too had the flow of migrant workers. He welcomed the recognition in the 2030 Agenda of the positive contribution of migrant workers to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Singapore also valued the contribution of

migrant workers and had put in place policies to make their stay a positive experience. A survey commissioned in 2014 had shown that 90 per cent of migrant workers were satisfied with working in Singapore. A similar proportion would recommend Singapore as a choice destination for work because of the good pay and working and living conditions there. Legislative protection, coupled with effective enforcement, was the key to safeguarding migrant workers' well-being and rights.

70. The Employment Act provided migrants workers with the same access to justice as locals and further safeguards had been added, which included providing documentation in the workers' native language, the compulsory issuance of payslips, limits on fees charged by employment agencies and a process for sharing complaints about middlemen in home countries with the relevant embassies in Singapore. Protection extended beyond the workplace to cover housing, through legislation on the standards for workers' dormitories. With regard to enforcement, in 2015, action — including prosecution — had been taken against 2,000 employers who had denied migrant workers their basic rights. The authorities worked in partnership with civil society organizations to inform migrant workers of their rights and how to seek help. Complaints were referred to the Ministry of Manpower and duly investigated.

71. Destination countries could and should ease migrant workers into their new lives, while migrant workers must abide by the laws of their destination country as responsible members of the community. The sharing of values and experiences between locals and migrant workers should be encouraged. For example, Singapore had implemented the "Knowing Singapore Programme" to give migrant workers an appreciation of the country's history, culture and societal norms.

72. **Mr. Sharma Pokharel** (Nepal) said that globalization had brought unprecedented changes, yielding both benefits and challenges. The benefits were uneven, with the top gaining more than the bottom. The least developed countries and landlocked developed countries faced greater vulnerability due to the increasingly competitive environment created by globalization. While the latter could not be avoided, it should be made to work for all countries, societies and peoples. That would require the smooth and timely

implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, among others. Continuous efforts should be made to provide developing countries, especially the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, with a level playing field by reforming global governance and the international financial architecture.

73. Globalization had economic, social and cultural facets. One of its major features was the movement of people, for which there had been significant growth since 1990. To overcome the resulting challenges, it was important to seek orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including by implementing planned and well-managed migration policies and by taking into account the types and causes of migration. Coordinated and concerted efforts were needed at the national, regional and international levels to protect and promote the basic human rights of migrant workers and combat violence against women migrant workers. The rights of migrant workers, as recognized by the relevant international instruments, should be guaranteed by host countries. Nepal supported initiatives to define the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination, and to promote dialogue and cooperation to address that issue in a holistic manner. Mass financial literacy among workers was also needed.

74. Nepal called for the effective implementation of all migration related targets under the Sustainable Development Goals, including reducing the transaction cost of remittances. Remittances had accounted for 32 per cent of the GDP of Nepal in 2015 and had contributed to poverty reduction and access to health and education. Remittances earned abroad had huge social, cultural and environmental costs for Nepal. However, they could cause also “Dutch disease”, leading to inflation and an erosion of the balance of payments, and create a moral hazard by incentivizing people to work less.

75. **Mr. de la Mora Salcedo** (Mexico) said that the globalized, interdependent world required the United Nations to play an active role in promoting a solid international architecture that made sustainable development a pillar of its activities to achieve more equitable and inclusive economic growth. The adoption

of the 2030 Agenda was a major step in that direction. The global economy had experienced slow productivity growth and volatile exchange rates and capital flows. In that climate, the strength of middle-income countries became extremely important, since they had a major share of the global population living in poverty and extreme poverty. An open debate was needed on the fragility of middle-income countries, particularly in light of the manner in which international cooperation resources were allocated for development. Transparent measures of progress on sustainable development that went beyond per capita income should be used for such countries, as stated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Such measures should recognize poverty in all of its forms and dimensions. The United Nations should promote them in coordination with financial institutions. Cooperation efforts for middle-income countries must be enhanced without undermining efforts to help the least developed countries.

76. Migration was one of the clearest manifestations of globalization and interdependence. Although migrants represented only 3.3 per cent of the world’s population, they made meaningful economic and social contributions to their countries of origin, transit and destination. The migration-related targets under the 2030 Agenda were aligned with the deep commitment of Mexico to help all people, no matter their migration status. Migration should be a decision rather than a necessity and the vehicle to achieve that aim was the global compact. Progress had been made on the governance of migration by previous mechanisms, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the high-level dialogues on international migration and development. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) had announced 16 June as the International Day of Family Remittances. Approximately 244 million migrants worldwide were supporting 750 million people and many families depended partly or fully on such remittances.

77. **Mr. Fox-Drummond Gough** (Brazil) said that global interdependence had been accelerated due to the increased ease of movement of goods, services, capital, people and information across national borders. That unprecedented mobility had changed the way countries and societies carried out their affairs. The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals had taken the global commitments to tackle the most pressing

challenges to a new level. However, it was not inevitable that globalization would work well for all. The 2030 Agenda had been born out of the realization that urgent action was needed for those who were furthest behind. Globalization was not neutral and its impacts and benefits had been unevenly distributed.

78. No multilateral agenda had integrated and mainstreamed current interdependence as comprehensively as the 2030 Agenda. As a matter of priority, the United Nations must accelerate its implementation, and that of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while taking into account the importance of building on synergies with the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality, equity, cooperation and solidarity among States.

79. The Committee had reiterated, in its past sessions, the importance of a New International Economic Order that was better tailored to delivering on internationally agreed development goals. The establishment of the Global Infrastructure Forum and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism were instrumental in that regard, and would allow Member States and other stakeholders to harness together the potential of infrastructure, science, technology and innovation to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The institutional architecture of global governance should be tailored to address the shortcomings of globalization, while taking advantage of its opportunities and implementing poverty eradication and sustainable development. That required entrusting developing countries with a voice and representation in global institutions.

80. Stepping up to the challenges of migration must be a priority, in order to give meaning to the principle of leaving no one behind. Migrants made a great contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development. The need to promote and protect the human rights and freedoms of all migrants must be reaffirmed. Brazil condemned the acts and manifestations of discrimination and related intolerance against migrants, and the stereotypes often applied to them. Brazil was committed to reforming the Immigration Act, asserting migrant rights and considering migration a vector for social and economic development. It supported the holding of the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and

Development. The United Nations should play a central role in those discussions, through the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In that context, Brazil welcomed the work of the forum on financing for development follow-up which should be strengthened by establishing a dedicated preparatory process, with a view to better providing policy recommendations for action by the international community on how to implement the financing for development outcomes and to deliver the means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

81. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali) said that, according to the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (*A/71/296*), the number of international migrants had increased by 71 million, or 41 per cent, between 2000 and 2015. Those statistics showed that migration was becoming a major global challenge that needed a common response. The challenges of migration had become key determinants in bilateral and multilateral relations. Migration should be managed by strengthening dialogue among countries of origin, transit and destination to find shared solutions that linked security, development, respect for human dignity and solidarity. Migration could then take place in humane conditions and in an orderly manner for the benefit of migrants and societies in all countries. Migration should be regular and safe. The rights of migrants, including refugees and internally displaced persons, should be respected, whether they were regular or irregular migrants.

82. In Mali, to make migration an asset to its socioeconomic development, a national migration policy had been established, alongside a plan of action. The aim of the plan was to better manage migration so that it could contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development. The policy was based on two key areas: managing migration within international standards and creating linkages between migration and development. In the long term, the plan of action would bolster efforts to create jobs for young people and dissuade them from irregular migration or, in parts of Northern Mali, recruitment by terrorist groups and drug traffickers.

83. The significance of the diaspora's contribution to socioeconomic development in Mali should be highlighted. Annual remittances from Malian migrants

had reached \$850, which accounted for 11 per cent of the GDP of Mali. That money contributed towards household maintenance and the provision of basic infrastructure. He also drew attention to the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals programme, which was a major area of development cooperation with France.

84. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that globalization had played a role in poverty reduction by encouraging the flow of trade and investment. Progress was not even or sustainable, however. Slow economic growth, weak foreign direct investment, declining trade flows and rising income inequality within and among countries posed significant challenges to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Hyper-globalization had constrained the policy space of developing countries. With citizens in developed and developing countries questioning the benefits of globalization, it was crucial to make globalization development-driven and serve the interests of all countries by addressing inequalities in the international economic system. The core objective of the New International Economic Order, to correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, remained important to ensuring equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

85. Globalization must work for all and contribute to poverty eradication. The best means of addressing poverty was creating decent jobs, particularly for young people and women. Enhanced global cooperation was needed to harness the power of globalization and generate job opportunities. Job creation should continue to be a priority of enhanced international policy coordination.

86. The implementation in Ethiopia of coordinated national policies to minimize the impacts of globalization and enhance its benefits had led to broad-based and progressive economic growth for 15 consecutive years. Making job generation a primary objective of national development had also led to the creation of millions of jobs in rural and urban areas. The creation of decent and quality jobs would remain at the top of the poverty eradication agenda in Ethiopia.

87. Efforts by the United Nations to improve international cooperation on migration for development were encouraging, such as its Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The New York Declaration for Refugees and

Migrants should be implemented to uphold the safety and dignity of refugees and migrants, promote comprehensive responses and enhanced responsibility-sharing for refugees, and ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

88. **Mr. Simati** (Tuvalu) said that the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement recognized the positive contributions of migration, migrants and mobility to inclusive growth and sustainable development. International migration and its multidimensional relationship with development were an integral part of globalization and the discourse of an interdependent world, where events in one region had ramifications for others. Migration was not a new phenomenon. One in seven people worldwide were migrants and that group was dominated by women, young people and children. When properly managed, accepting migrants was a win-win situation. They were devoted to self-improvement, job seeking and family, and should be viewed as socioeconomic assets and contributors, rather than as responsibilities alone. They brought new skills, dynamism and diversity to destination countries, thereby contributing to their social cohesion, while they offered remittances and skills transfer to countries of origin.

89. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants had set the pathway for future compacts that would cater for the nuanced drivers of migration. Although current international law focused on refugees, that should not compromise the rights of other migrants. All migrants were rights holders and the international community should devise systems that placed humanitarian concerns and human rights at their centre. The response to the nuanced movement of people should be grounded in responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination and respect for human rights. Long-term solutions must be founded to provide for the safety and dignity of migrants and refugees. Many migrants had been forced to move for reasons beyond their control. Tuvalu was grateful to host countries, communities, institutions and individuals that demonstrated leadership and compassion by providing safe haven to migrants. Host countries whose borders had been overwhelmed by refugees, migrants and displaced persons should receive help. Implementation schedules would transform narrative into action. To that end, he wished to make the following suggestions.

90. First, Governments should collaborate to make staying in the home country a viable option, through partnerships for socioeconomic development. International and internal conflicts must be urgently, proactively and diplomatically defused. Second, good border controls were needed to curb illegal trafficking and smuggling, but migration policies must include respect for human rights. Borders should not be closed with barbed wires, fences, or ridicule, at the risk of sinking to the level of the original causes of the flight of migrants and refugees. Third, the flow and productive use of remittances should be encouraged through sound exchange rate regimes, monetary and economic policies, and by providing banking facilities that enabled the safe and timely transfer of migrants' funds. Fourth, certain forms of temporary migration should be included in bilateral or multilateral agreements, such as migration for humanitarian admission, medical evacuation, family reunification and work schemes. Fifth, alongside international human rights law, it should be recognized that international criminal law, international humanitarian law, international labour law and the law of the sea could guide the drafting of national and international policies and legal frameworks on migration. Sixth, receiving countries should, at minimum, provide basic food, shelter, health care and education, opportunities and security. Migrants should respect the laws of receiving countries and not impose or transpose laws on host countries. Finally, people displaced by climate change might not fit the international definition of refugees. Governments should therefore consider requests for migration from countries whose existence was imminently threatened by global warming and climate change. The discourse on the global compact for refugees and migrants should include a legal protection system for those who were displaced, internally or across borders, by climate change.

91. **Mr. Eshanta** (Libya) said that while globalization had provided positive opportunities in areas such as technology and innovation, and some countries had made significant economic gains that had saved millions of people from poverty, difficulties included the failure to make development a priority for developing countries and fragile economic conditions that could have a negative impact on culture, identity and national values. As the benefits of globalization varied by country, international cooperation should be

strengthened at all levels in order to identify the principles that would allow the whole world to benefit from globalization in a fair and equitable manner.

92. Science, technology, innovation, knowledge sharing and capacity-building were important for improving the economic and social conditions in many countries. They would lead to the fulfilment of the key goal of poverty eradication and the achievement of the other goals of the 2030 Agenda. Technology transfer and strengthening the capacity of developing countries were also important and could be achieved through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Reducing the digital divide between developed and developing countries would ensure sustainability and growth. Developing countries faced many obstacles in the areas of finance, capacity-building and technology training. Hard work was needed to overcome those gaps and strengthen the system for technological innovation in order to tackle the challenges of sustainable development.

93. International migration posed several challenges that required a joint response from the international community. Migration could contribute positively to growth, but only if realistic mechanisms could be agreed that respected the sovereign rights of countries over their territory and international human rights principles. Although irregular migration could threaten the economy, security and society, it must not be addressed through security measures alone, but by strengthening and applying development and economic reform programmes in countries of origin. Concerted international efforts were needed to help countries overcome crises and improve their economic situations, which would, in turn, improve the living standards of their people. Developed countries should play a greater role in ODA for countries of origin and transit, in collaboration with the countries concerned and regional organizations.

94. **Mr. Bankole** (Nigeria) said that, if well governed, globalization was a powerful tool for strengthening multilateral cooperation and promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development. The United Nations should play a central role in that regard. Progress had been made, in particular since 2014, and should be celebrated. Nonetheless, significant challenges remained, such as poor global growth, increasing inequality and continued

environmental degradation. Emphasis should continue to be placed on the need for collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The outcomes contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be fast-tracked. In the case of Africa, illicit financial flows remained a concern. Nigeria supported the findings of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and urged the United Nations to continue to prioritize international tax cooperation and the fight against corruption.

95. Nigeria welcomed the proclamation of 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies. Such technologies would play a critical role in finding practical and cost-effective solutions to challenges in agriculture, poverty eradication, and sanitation and disease control. Nigeria encouraged young citizens to acquire skills in the areas of innovation that drove modern economies by providing full scholarships for up to 100,000 students following university courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Scientific and Technical Exchange Programme and the Global South-South Assets and Technology Exchange system should be highlighted in that regard. Access to modern technology was also important in the context of the Paris Agreement. Action to tackle climate change should reflect equity and be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

96. International migration lay at the heart of globalization. Although the outcome of the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants was welcome, the different forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination and xenophobia, experienced by migrants and their families were a cause of concern. The human rights of migrants, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups, should be protected, including through full implementation of the relevant standards of the International Labour Organization. With respect to remittances, Africa paid approximately \$1.8 billion in excess transfer fees each year — the highest of all regions. Nigeria called for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in source and recipient countries. It welcomed initiatives in that regard, including through the African Postal Financial Services Initiative and the African Institute for Remittances.

97. **Ms. Scott** (Namibia), welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/71/296), which reaffirmed the United Nations as the primary forum for consolidation of global dialogue on those issues, said that globalization had helped to lift large numbers of people out of poverty, yet provoked widening inequalities within and among nations. Since, in the world economy, development was characterized by an increase in foreign trade and the flow of financial capital across national boundaries, the economic success of individual countries largely depended on their participation in the world economy. Globalization that advanced inclusive sustainable development within and across regions could provide opportunities for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

98. Middle-income countries remained vulnerable to the trap of losing their competitiveness to low-income countries while lacking the technological advancement to catch up with high-income countries. In countries recently classified as middle-income, most of the population remained poor because increasing wealth was concentrated in the hands of a few. That inequality was often exacerbated by factors such as race, gender and the rural-urban divide. The classification of Namibia as an upper middle-income country was problematic, since the GDP calculation did not take into account income distribution and structural imbalances in the economy. The classification unfairly deprived Namibia of concessional funding that was needed to pursue development objectives.

99. The principles of the United Nations Millennium Declaration — such as the right to development — remained relevant to the management of globalization, which should systematically capture the needs of the most vulnerable and ensure their continued centrality in the new global development framework, notably the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Inequity in global governance was an obstacle to sustainable development.

100. **Ms. Owino** (Kenya) said that, in 1974, the New International Economic Order had been established to correct inequalities in the international system, eliminate the gap between developing and developed countries and accelerate economic and social progress. While the progress made was appreciated, inequalities remained a challenge and required greater efforts.

101. The ravages of climate change were more evident than ever, particularly in developing countries like Kenya where agriculture was the mainstay. The threat to the climate was real and irreversible. While many developing countries had done little to contribute to climate change, they were among the most affected by its impact. The Paris Agreement, alongside the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, provided a framework and infrastructure to mitigate and address climate change. Partners must continue to meet their obligations in a timely manner, especially with regard to climate financing and ODA.

102. The 2030 Agenda was a plan to manage globalization and its discontents. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, there was a need for sustained partnerships to share experiences, knowledge and innovations and to facilitate technology transfer. North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation were important; more could be achieved together.

103. In August 2016, Kenya, in cooperation with Japan, had hosted the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which was the first one to be held in Africa. That Conference had resulted in the Nairobi Declaration of 28 August 2016, which underscored the importance of cooperation, genuine partnerships and international solidarity. Kenya would also host the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in late 2016.

104. Many developing countries continued to lose funds through illicit financial flows. Africa lost more than \$50 billion each year, which was many times more than it received in ODA. In a spirit of interdependence, each country should therefore introduce stringent and practical measures to curb illicit financial flows and return illicit finances to their countries of origin. Doing so would go a long way towards boosting domestic resource mobilization in Africa.

105. The unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals had been included in the 2030 Agenda. However, Sustainable Development Goal 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries deserved special emphasis in that context, since globalization demanded more interdependence and greater solidarity between nations. Free and fair trade and the open sharing of technology was a must if globalization was to remain a positive force.

106. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that, for his country, human rights were a matter of State policy and a key pillar of foreign policy. At various national, regional and multilateral forums, El Salvador had promoted the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach that incorporated migration, development and human rights. He therefore welcomed the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the commitment therein to the security, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of migration status, and at all times. That Declaration had laid the foundation to move forward on those specific issues.

107. The structural reason for massive migration movements was the opposition between poverty and lack of opportunity for most, and the projection by developed countries of an image of their societies as places of almost unlimited wealth and opportunity. That problem was exacerbated by established migrants in destination countries facilitating the migration of those left in their country of origin. Irregular migration had become a financial business worth billions of dollars and a complex phenomenon that could be addressed only by taking into account its multiple causes. However, simplistic solutions were being touted in some countries, where migration was used as a political tool. Proposals to build physical, economic or social barriers to migration were a cause of concern and represented a discourse that ran counter to the principles of globalization by advocating almost unlimited movement for economic and financial goods, but the complete restriction of movement of people. The rights and economic contributions of migrants were thereby being ignored.

108. In that context, El Salvador wished to reiterate the positive contribution of migrant workers to inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin and destination, to highlight the private nature of migrant workers' remittances and to reaffirm its commitment to lowering the costs of such transactions. The international community and organizations involved in migration and the protection of migrants must strengthen their work in all its aspects. Working with communities of origin was the key to bringing about better living conditions and increasing investment in education, health and employment. Migration should be considered a

possible source of development, rather than an affliction.

109. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the promises and challenges associated with globalization and interdependence, highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/71/296), were not new. Individuals living within communities, and communities and States living in proximity, had always been interdependent. Aristotle had observed that man was by nature a social animal. Modern technology had allowed such interdependence to reach new heights and had increased the stock of human knowledge, created wealth and promoted well-being. However, technology had also given rise to problems, such as its application in warfare, terrorist recruitment and financing, the aggravation of inequality between those who did and did not have access to it, and the divorce of the digitized finance industry from the real economy. It had abetted the individualism and unfettered consumerism that endangered solidarity and the health of the planet. Young people had been hit particularly hard. Pope Francis had commented that unemployment and precarious work were not just economic problems, they were problems of dignity.

110. The greatest challenge to globalization and interdependence was the mass movement of refugees and migrants. In addition to the 244 million international migrants recorded in 2015, there were 40 million people who had been displaced within their own countries — the highest level of forced displacement since the Second World War. Millions of refugees and migrants had fled conflict, persecution, discrimination, extreme poverty and environmental degradation. During their journeys, refugees and other forced migrants faced the dangers of trafficking, starvation and abuse. Upon arrival they could encounter discrimination, extreme nationalism, racism and a lack of policies regulating their acceptance. While countries discussed reducing barriers to the circulation of goods and services, they were building walls to block the movement of people.

111. In that context, the Catholic Church continued its tradition of solidarity. During his visits to Lampedusa and Lesbos, Pope Francis had given voice to those most in need and had called on all to respond with solidarity, compassion, generosity and the practical

commitment of resources. The body of the Holy See responsible for matters related to human mobility had been placed under the direct supervision of Pope Francis. Successful interdependence and globalization required the international community to strive to eliminate from all countries the structural causes of conflict, violence, poverty and hunger, and to attain substantial results in striving for environmental protection, dignified labour, quality education and the protection of the family.

112. **Ms. Brautigam** (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), speaking as the Chair of the Global Migration Group, said that the Group and its members had undertaken various activities to implement the commitments made at the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The high-level dialogues could play a valuable role in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

113. The Global Migration Group welcomed Member States' expectation that the high-level dialogues should play a role in reviewing relevant aspects of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and that a role was envisaged for the Third High-level Dialogue in the elaboration of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. In that regard, the proposal, made in the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/71/296), to hold the Third High-level Dialogue prior to the intergovernmental conference in 2018 deserved Member States' attention. The Group supported the other recommendations in the report regarding the purpose, periodicity and modalities of future high-level dialogues.

114. The Global Migration Group welcomed the acknowledgement in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of its work to develop principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations. Its Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender had embarked on an expert, multi-stakeholder process in that regard. The Group had offered to initiate an informal discussion among interested Member States and the United Nations system on the way forward with the commitment in that Declaration to develop non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines on the treatment of migrants in

vulnerable situations, especially unaccompanied and separated children. A side event on the role of the United Nations system in follow-up to the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, including on the development of principles and guidelines, was being hosted by the Group during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

115. In response to Member States' request that the commitments made in the Declaration should be assessed periodically, Group members, including IOM, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, would incorporate progress reports as part of their respective mandates. Collective support would be offered by the Group to help Member States meet migration-related reporting requirements. Informal discussions had been initiated by the Group on how the United Nations system, including entities that were not members of the Group, could work together to prepare an informal report on progress for publication in the second half of 2017.

116. The development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration provided a critical opportunity to enhance international cooperation on migration and make progress towards the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the relevant objectives of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Group stood ready to contribute actively to the development of the global compact, in line with Annex II, paragraph 13, of the Declaration.

117. **Mr. de Vasconcelos** (International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)) said that throughout civilization people had moved to seek better opportunities for themselves and their families. Migration was part of the human condition. The scale of migration from rural to urban areas and across national borders in the twenty-first century was unprecedented, however, and had been accurately characterized as the human face of globalization. Remittances from migrants were estimated to support 750 million people worldwide. Most migrants sent home \$200 to \$300 several times each year, which, although a relatively small amount, often constituted 50 per cent or more of families' income. Remittances were expected to surpass \$0.5 trillion by 2017; by 2030 accumulated remittances would have reached

\$7.5 trillion, of which \$2.5 trillion would go to the poor rural areas of the developing world.

118. Remittances had not been accounted for 15 years previously, since migrants and their families had not been considered to count. That had changed dramatically, and remittances had become part of the development agenda of Governments and international organizations, which were working to lower transfer costs, promote financial inclusion and maximize the impact of those resources to benefit individual families and their communities. Every penny earned that was sent home could be made to count and could help support the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the recommendations contained in the report by the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/71/296).

119. Remittances represented a critical lifeline for millions of households and helped families to raise their living standards. They were the financial expression of millions of families in making the Sustainable Development Goals a reality in their lives. The international community should help them to do so. At the local level, remittances could be enhanced by providing more economic opportunities for families in countries of origin. Remittances went furthest in small rural towns and villages in developing countries. For a decade, IFAD had financed over 50 projects that had stimulated the development impact of remittances, in cooperation with the private sector and civil society. IFAD had founded the Global Forum on Remittances and Development to establish a partnership between the public and private sectors and civil society that would address current and future market challenges and opportunities. The next Global Forum would be held at the United Nations in New York in 2017. During the previous Global Forum, held in Milan in 2015, Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, Special Advocate of the Secretary-General for Inclusive Finance for Development, had been patron of the first International Day of Family Remittances, which had been unanimously proclaimed by an IFAD Governing Council resolution.

Draft resolution entitled "Towards a New International Economic Order" (A/C.2/71/L.3)

120. **Ms. Niyomthai** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution [A/C.2/71/L.3](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution reaffirmed the need to continue working towards a New International Economic Order, in accordance with the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted in 1974, and in view of the continued relevance of those documents in the context of the 2030 Agenda and other recently adopted international agreements. She drew attention to paragraphs 4 and 6 of the draft resolution regarding the need, in the interests of sustainable development, to foster coherent policies and an enabling economic environment at the international and national levels, while respecting each country's policy space.

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) South-South cooperation for development
(*continued*) ([A/C.2/71/L.16](#))

Draft resolution on South-South cooperation
([A/C.2/71/L.16](#))

121. **Ms. Niyomthai** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution [A/C.2/71/L.16](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution underlined the increasing role of South-South cooperation in bolstering the capacities of developing countries and their positive impacts. She drew attention to paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, which emphasized that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. In paragraph 12, a request was made for a comprehensive proposal on measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. A request was also made in paragraph 14 for the organization of two in-depth briefings by May 2017 on the structure and operation of the formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

122. Lastly, she drew attention to the call in paragraph 33 for the convening of a high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos

Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which Argentina had offered to host.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.