



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
1 December 2016

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 11th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 11 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair) (Spain)

Contents

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)

- (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*)
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)
- (c) Disaster risk reduction (*continued*)
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)
- (g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (*continued*)
- (h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*)
- (i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*)
- (j) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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

16-17598 (E)



Please recycle The text "Please recycle" followed by a universal recycling symbol.



In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development

(continued) (A/71/76-E/2016/55, A/71/190, A/71/210, A/71/215, A/71/217 and A/71/376)

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** *(continued)* (A/71/212, A/71/260 and A/71/320)
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** *(continued)* (A/71/265, A/71/267 and Add.1, A/71/324, A/71/324/Corr.1 and A/71/324/Add.1)
- (c) **Disaster risk reduction** *(continued)* (A/71/230)
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** *(continued)* (A/71/216)
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** *(continued)* (A/71/216)
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** *(continued)* (A/71/216)
- (g) **Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme** *(continued)* (A/71/25)
- (h) **Harmony with Nature** *(continued)* (A/71/266)
- (i) **Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy** *(continued)* (A/71/220)
- (j) **Sustainable mountain development** *(continued)* (A/71/256)

1. **Mr. Da Costa** (Mozambique) said that the full implementation of his Government's five-year programme for poverty reduction and socioeconomic development was being hindered by droughts and floods, which had recently occurred in different provinces simultaneously and had had a detrimental impact on gross domestic product (GDP). Rising sea levels due to climate change and the continuation of the El Niño phenomenon were undermining the viability of national food systems.

2. To reduce the impact of such events, his Government was promoting studies and research for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and taking measures to reduce the vulnerability of communities, the economy and infrastructure to climate risks and natural disasters. In order to build resilience, it had adopted an institutional framework for disaster risk management and coordination of responses at the national, provincial and distinct levels. It had also adopted a legal framework to strengthen operations and public policy in the area of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and was implementing its Master Plan for Mitigation of Natural Disasters. Despite the positive impact of such activities, which were based on the principle of inclusion of all relevant actors at different levels, much remained to be done to achieve the goal of zero mortality in future disasters. One challenge was the lack of resources, which made it difficult to provide the required assistance to affected populations, reconstruct infrastructure and improve planning. He called on development partners to continue assisting Mozambique and other less-developed countries in their efforts to reduce the risk of disaster and combat climate change.

3. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia) said that the substantial progress made by many countries, in particular middle-income countries, towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be further consolidated. To that end, financing for the Sustainable Development Goals should be scaled up and strategic partnerships promoted between Governments and key stakeholders, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and multilateral development banks. Efforts to assist countries in special situations should also be enhanced. Malaysia welcomed the successful outcome of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm

Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, which called for greater support to the world's most vulnerable countries. Noting the importance of an enabling environment of peace and security, Malaysia joined the international community in calling for robust and effective international actions to fight terrorism and violent extremism in order to deliver the sustainable development agenda.

4. Based on inclusivity, the Malaysian development approach had reduced the incidence of poverty to 0.6 per cent and significantly narrowed income inequality between the rich and poor. The current five-year development plan, which mirrored the multidimensional nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, had been formulated as a people-centred programme. An assessment was made of the impact of development efforts on people, and a well-being index had been introduced to ensure better quality of life and greater prosperity. Malaysia, which was committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was implementing a number of initiatives and actions to ensure its achievement, including the formulation of a national road map for the Sustainable Development Goals, the establishment of a high-level committee to oversee implementation and monitoring, and strengthened data requirements. It welcomed the initiative by the President of the General Assembly to establish a dedicated team for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and looked forward to finalization of the sustainable development goals strategy.

5. Malaysia was pleased that the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would enter into force on 4 November. It was currently initiating its ratification process and was committed to achieving a 45 per cent reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions relative to its GDP by 2030.

6. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that the experience of implementing the MDGs had shown that global development goals would work at the national level only through public policies that generated tangible results for citizens — and only if those development goals were viewed as a whole-of-society agenda and a shared aspiration among all pillars of society.

7. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda would result in the eradication of extreme poverty and a minimum level of sustainable development. While there was no question that individual countries had a role in that endeavour, the role and priorities of the United Nations system should be more clearly defined, particularly as the Goals could not be achieved without the participation and support of the United Nations on the ground. Nor could they be achieved unless commitments to provide official development assistance (ODA) were honoured.

8. Noting that developing countries often suffered the consequences of the pollution caused by developed countries, he called for efforts to reduce vulnerability to climate change and for adaptation measures to reduce the risk of natural disasters and prevent the loss of human life and material damage.

9. Sustainable development must be tackled in a holistic manner, and its three pillars addressed. In order to tackle the challenges faced by middle-income countries, efforts should be made to identify accurate ways of measuring poverty given its multidimensional nature. Technical assistance from United Nations agencies would be invaluable in that regard. In conclusion, he called for strengthened international support and partnerships with a view to building and improving the capacities of developing countries and supporting national implementation plans.

10. **Ms. Hua Ye** (China) said that the international community must take proactive steps to translate the commitments in the 2030 Agenda into concrete actions. Implementation must be integrated, coordinated and guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities; linkages between the 2030 Agenda and national development strategies should be encouraged and tailored to specific situations. Priorities must include improvement of people's livelihoods, inclusive economic development and harmony with the environment. Efforts should be made to optimize development partnerships and maintain the status of North-South cooperation as the main channel for development cooperation. She called on developed countries to honour their ODA commitments and provide assistance to developing countries in such areas as finance, technology and capacity-building. South-South and triangular cooperation should be strengthened, and the role of the United Nations in the

overall coordination of the 2030 Agenda should be supported. The international community should include development issues in macropolicy coordination; create favourable international trade, financial and investment environments; and strive to reduce the gaps between North and South, and rich and poor.

11. In order to develop mutually beneficial cooperation, the international community must work together to tackle common challenges in such areas as climate, food and energy. To that end, all parties must adhere to the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and efforts should be made to promote universal acceptance, and full implementation, of the Paris Agreement. She highlighted the need for a fair, reasonable, sustainable and stable agricultural trade order; a reduction in trade protectionism; and a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system. China, for its part, had recently deposited its instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement with the Secretary-General and it participated in all aspects of international cooperation concerning sustainable energy. It continued to be guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and was implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

12. As the world's largest developing country, China attached great importance to sustainable development. It had already incorporated certain aspects of the 2030 Agenda into its national medium and long-term development strategies, including the 13th five-year plan, and had formulated its national plan for implementation of the agenda. Her country hoped to lift more than 50 million people out of poverty by 2020 and to achieve the targets concerning poverty and hunger eradication, maternal and child health care, and housing security ahead of schedule.

13. China actively promoted South-South cooperation and would continue to provide ample assistance to meet the special needs of African countries, least developed countries and small island developing States. The important measures announced by President Xi Jinping the previous year at the seventieth session of the General Assembly were being implemented, and a series of practical initiatives to support United Nations development agencies had recently been announced. Lastly, she noted that an action plan for the

implementation of the 2030 Agenda had been developed at the recent summit of the Group of 20 in Hangzhou.

14. **Ms. Khaing** (Myanmar) said that her country recognized the importance of mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into national policies and plans; its commitment to the Goals was reflected in its 2016 economic and development policy. A global partnership was essential for sustainable development, as were peace and security. Myanmar had recently convened the first session of the Union Peace Conference with a view to fostering the spirit necessary for economic growth, social equality and sustainable development in the country; all relevant stakeholders had participated.

15. As a country whose biodiversity contributed to the livelihood of the population and economic growth, Myanmar recognized the need, reflected in the 2030 Agenda, to address sustainable development in all three dimensions. The agricultural sector, which provided some 38 per cent of GDP, helped to ensure sustainable development in terms of food security and nutrition. Myanmar was committed to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy; it believed that conservation of the natural environment was the duty of all citizens. Its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020 served as the guiding framework for biodiversity conservation, management and utilization.

16. Myanmar was vulnerable to the impact of climate change, which threatened development gains, and was taking steps to formulate a national climate change strategy and action plan and to ratify the Paris Agreement. The forthcoming entry into force of that instrument was encouraging.

17. **Ms. Al-Sabah** (Kuwait), stressing the need to maintain the momentum generated during negotiation of the 2030 Agenda and translate commitments into actions, said that Kuwait had drawn up a national implementation plan for the Sustainable Development Goals. The lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs must be taken into account. The international community must work together to address current challenges, particularly those faced by countries in special situations, by sharing responsibilities, building partnerships, and strengthening cooperation between developed and developing countries. Developed

countries must meet their financial commitments, including through the provision of ODA.

18. Kuwait welcomed the forthcoming entry into force of the Paris Agreement. It was taking measures to promote energy diversification and reduce greenhouse gases with a view to ensuring that, by 2030, 15 per cent of its energy requirements would be met using renewable energy sources. Kuwait had also undertaken a number of efforts to address the problem of desertification.

19. Expressing appreciation for the efforts of United Nations entities, in particular in the areas of security, human rights and sustainable development, she said that the United Nations must nonetheless remain impartial in discharging its mandate.

20. **Mr. Mahe** (Tonga), welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/71/267), said that complementary, integrated implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda would be necessary to ensure that those development processes were appropriately aligned in individual national planning.

21. Noting the interlinkages between such issues as the ocean, climate change and disaster risk and the links between relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 14 on life below water, he said that sustainable development challenges could not be addressed individually and must be tackled in a holistic manner. Effective, specific, genuine and durable partnerships that recognized the interlinkages of development challenges were essential to overcome such challenges at the national and international levels.

22. His Government's strategic development framework 2015-2025 had been aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals early on. It promoted a knowledge-based economy; urban and rural development; human development and gender equality; good governance; infrastructure and technology; environmental management and resilience; and security and sovereignty. Efforts were being made to implement the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and

the national development framework at community level.

23. A whole-of-country approach had been taken in developing the national climate change policy to ensure that it was mainstreamed across government and down to the community level. Noting that some 30 per cent of global greenhouse gases had been absorbed by the ocean since the Industrial Revolution, he said that climate change had a negative impact on the Pacific small island developing States, which were highly dependent on fish stocks for subsistence and commercial exports.

24. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that efforts should be made to strengthen synergy and improve system-wide cooperation and coordination to support implementation of the three dimensions of the sustainable development agenda. Recognizing the importance of sharing best practices, his country was preparing its voluntary national review for the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017.

25. Disasters were threatening to undermine hard-earned development gains, particularly in developing countries; disaster preparedness must be integrated into long-term development planning. Efforts must be made to implement the important Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and increase its coherence with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

26. In close collaboration with international development partners, his Government had, continued to take timely and coordinated actions to mitigate the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, which had caused the worst drought in five decades and floods affecting 10 million people. The Ethiopian disaster response mechanism, including the health system, emergency food reserve mechanisms, and the allocation of some \$300 million by the Government, had helped to reduce the impact of the disaster and been recognized as a successful model at the World Humanitarian Summit. Ethiopia was continuing to work closely with its partners to consolidate further its institutional capacity and resilience.

27. The promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (Goal 7) was an important enabler of poverty eradication and would help to address climate change. As a result of efforts to increase power generation

capacity from hydropower, wind, geothermal and solar sources, Ethiopia had expanded electricity to rural areas and had begun to export electricity to neighbouring countries. His Government would continue to strengthen its institutional and legal frameworks to attract additional investment and fully realize the huge potential of the energy sector, which was one of the key drivers of poverty reduction and economic growth.

28. **Mr. Isambaliuk** (Ukraine) said that, although Ukraine was struggling to build stability and security following the illegal annexation of Crimea and the military aggression in the eastern part of the country backed by the Russian Federation, it remained committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It took seriously its obligations under the 2030 Agenda, and had recently deposited its instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement. Progress was also being made in the area of maternal health and tuberculosis and in reducing HIV/AIDS incidence rates. Kyiv had recently joined the network of Fast-Track Cities Ending the AIDS Epidemic, becoming the first city in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to do so.

29. Noting that the United Nations action plan on Chernobyl to 2016 and the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions were drawing to a close, he said that continuous efforts must be made to keep the issue of post-Chernobyl recovery high on the international agenda. A stronger voice should be given to the human dimension of nuclear emergencies, and the knowledge and experience gained, including on preparation and recovery, should be incorporated into developmental programming. In the Donbas region, drinking water, soil, flora and fauna had been poisoned as a result of the criminal flooding of mines by terrorists. External aggression had also brought on a new form of poverty; sudden or unexpected poverty affecting the lives of about 1.5 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine was a crisis felt not only by his country but by the entire region. The war in the Donbas region had cost Ukraine millions of dollars that could have been invested in sustainable development. As a country that was suffering from the environmental impact of the ongoing aggression against it, Ukraine believed that it was high time for the United Nations to address protection of the environment in conflicts.

30. As sustainable development could not be achieved without peace and security, action to strengthen universal peace and promote greater security should become a driving and unifying force in the collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Steps should also be taken to link the Goals with action aimed at peaceful resolution of conflict.

31. **Mr. Peketi** (Togo) said that his country was a pilot country receiving support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Firmly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other agreements aimed at eradicating poverty and increasing climate resilience, it had already presented its voluntary national review to the high-level political forum. Ambitious institutional reforms had been introduced following a review to identify further synergies and adjustments necessary to strengthen the economic efficiency, social equity and environmental sustainability of existing policies. Togo had opted for an approach based on prioritizing targets; particular emphasis had been placed on strengthening national cohesion and democratic governance.

32. As for economic governance, Togo was advocating sound public financial management and the clean-up of financial sectors in the interest of transparency and inclusiveness. A high authority had been established for prevention of corruption and related offences, and criminal provisions had been incorporated in the new penal code. Arrangements were being made to create a legal and institutional framework to promote public-private partnership.

33. Turning to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, he said that Togo had already begun to draw up its national plan for sustainable development that built on the national programme for capacity-building and modernization of the State for the period 2015-2019. With assistance from partners, it had started to implement a community development emergency programme that sought to foster social inclusion and improve the living standards of vulnerable populations by 2018. The National Fund for Inclusive Finance had been established in Togo with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enable some 10,000 of the poorest people to access credit and lift themselves out of poverty. He drew attention to activities undertaken

to promote the private sector, including improving the business environment (10,815 new companies had been registered in 2015) and developing the roads, port and airport infrastructures. Its renovated port had become a trans-shipment hub in the subregion and its airport was among the region's most modern.

34. Despite those efforts, his country continued to face significant challenges in eradicating poverty in all its forms and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. An inclusive approach, including implementation of the provisions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda — with its emphasis on the sharing of resources, ODA and international cooperation — was required to ensure that no one was left behind.

35. **Mr. Semisi Seruitanoa** (Fiji) said that the international community must engage constructively in order to deliver on sustainable development priorities and commitments. The three dimensions of sustainable development had to be tackled in a holistic manner if poverty was to be eradicated.

36. His country, which placed sustainable development at the core of its national agenda, was pleased to have been the first to ratify the Paris Agreement. It welcomed the forthcoming entry into force of that instrument and encouraged all countries to make an effort to combat climate change. The support of the global community was essential if developing countries and countries in special situations were to realize their development aspirations. A “one-size-fits-all” approach could not be taken; the differences and vulnerabilities of countries must be taken into account if no one was to be left behind. Continued efforts to implement the Samoa Pathway must be made; partnerships, capacity-building and the provision of data were essential components. Fiji looked forward to the final report on the findings of the Joint Inspection Unit review of United Nations system support for small island developing States.

37. The discussions on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would provide an opportunity to strengthen and improve the work of the United Nations development system, which must allow for national ownership and leadership. Fiji looked forward to the establishment of effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reduce gaps, address overlap and build synergies across the United Nations development system, ensuring that it was fit for

purpose in assisting countries to meet their sustainable development aspirations.

38. Lastly, the development of a legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction would be an important step towards protecting the world's oceans. In that connection, his delegation looked forward to the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to be held in New York in June 2017.

39. **Mr. Ayoko** (Nigeria) said that the international community must redouble its efforts to advance the sustainable development agenda. Developed countries should honour their commitments to developing countries in the areas of finance and the transfer of environmentally-friendly technology. Further efforts must also be made to implement the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, taking into account the unique vulnerabilities and challenges of small island developing States. The United Nations had a fundamental role to play in mobilizing assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building support for those States.

40. Noting the importance of collective effort to address the root causes of natural disasters, Nigeria called for the accelerated implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The global community must strengthen the exchange of disaster relief technology and information, and establish regional cooperation mechanisms for monitoring, early warning and assessment to minimize the consequences of disasters.

41. His Government attached high importance to all the dimensions of sustainable development, which it had included in its medium to long-term national development plan. It had also undertaken initiatives in a variety of sectors, and it gave priority to best practices for environmentally sustainable activities and green technology. It welcomed the Sustainable Energy for All initiative launched by the Secretary-General. In response to a 2011 report by the United Nations Environment Programme, President Buhari had launched a programme in June to clean up the Ogoniland region in the Niger Delta area, which sought

to halt environmental pollution in the oil-rich community, improve security and governance and eliminate social inequalities. Preparations for the launch of green bonds had also begun. Developed countries and international institutions must renew their commitment to help developing countries acquire environmentally-friendly technologies, address the impact of climate change and embrace the green economy. Funding institutions should prioritize concessional and soft investment loans to developing countries for the new and renewable energy sector.

42. Combating desertification was a prerequisite for sustainable growth and social progress. Nigeria was undertaking a number of measures aimed at preventing desert encroachment, notably the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative. It was also committed to working with its neighbours in the Lake Chad region to reverse the adverse effects of climate change.

43. Lastly, he urged the international community to expand development opportunities through the promotion of subregional, regional and interregional cooperation and the involvement of the private sector and civil society in order to achieve broad-based and inclusive development.

44. **Mr. Ahinois** (Turkey) said that his country was in the process of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals framework into its national development plans. It was committed to the universal and transformative 2030 Agenda, whose implementation would place people at the centre of development efforts, achieve poverty eradication and address the specific challenges of countries in special situations.

45. Turkey attached equal importance to the three Rio conventions. It had hosted the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in 2015 and was a candidate to host the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018 and the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2020. The effectiveness of those Conventions depended on the synergy between them; adequate capacity and resources were necessary for their

accelerated implementation, as was assistance to developing countries. Turkey had also launched the Ankara Initiative 2016-2019 to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the 2030 Agenda and share lessons learned from Turkey's previous experience in land management. It was pleased that the position of Executive Secretary of that Convention had been upgraded to the level of Under-Secretary-General.

46. Lastly, while the global momentum for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement had been remarkable, adequate financial and technical support to all developing countries was essential for the success of that Agreement.

47. **Ms. Baus** (Croatia) said that the July 2016 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development had shown the forum to be the main oversight body in the United Nations for the 2030 Agenda. Its focus on leaving no one behind and the series of successful voluntary national reviews were encouraging. Her delegation hoped that events over the following year would be enriched by the experiences of States and other stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

48. The forthcoming United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda would provide an opportunity to address the complex challenges of urbanization and make strides towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, notably Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities and a number of interrelated targets. Noting the clear synergy between urbanization, sustainable development and climate change, she said that Croatia was willing to share its experiences and learn from others in making the rural and urban environments more sustainable and addressing increased inequality in society.

49. Small and medium-sized enterprises, which nurtured an entrepreneurial spirit and fostered innovation and technological development, lay at the foundation of every successful sustainable development strategy, and could embody several fundamental principles of the 2030 Agenda, including gender equality. Croatia fully supported the ongoing negotiations on the Committee's draft resolution on

entrepreneurship for sustainable development and hoped it would be supported by Committee members.

50. **Mr. Barro** (Senegal) said that if the challenges of existing rectifying imbalances and inequalities were to be addressed and the Sustainable Development Goals achieved, efforts would have to be made not only to change vision and direction but also to adopt strategies that were inclusive, relevant, effective, efficient and viable. Policies to promote inclusive and lasting economic growth must be implemented by strengthening infrastructures and supporting production, particularly in the agricultural and energy sectors. More viable multi-stakeholder partnerships should be established in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; in that spirit, priority should be given to the mobilization of productive investment flows through increased international public and private sector funding, innovative financing mechanisms and South-South cooperation.

51. Senegal called for more coordinated implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Greater priority should be given to the sustainable management of natural resources, climate change adaptation based on sustainable land management, and the promotion of sustainable patterns of production and consumption. The transfer of environmentally-sound technologies and the successful mobilization of \$100 billion per year through the Green Climate Fund would help those countries greatly affected by extreme weather events. He expressed his country's condolences to the people of Haiti after the devastating hurricane, and called for international emergency assistance to Haiti and other countries affected by Hurricane Matthew.

52. In order to meet the challenges ahead, Senegal had embarked on a global policy review, focusing on a structural transformation of the production system, and on social protection of vulnerable populations. A national conference on the Sustainable Development Goals had been held with a view to incorporating them in national strategies, establishing effective financial mechanisms and institutional frameworks for their implementation, and developing systems for data collection and analysis.

53. **Ms. Sánchez Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that challenges such as environmental deterioration and the negative effects of the international economic and

financial crisis highlighted the need to change current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Small island States were particularly vulnerable to such challenges and required special and differential treatment in the current global context in which a deeply unfair economic, financial and trading system prevailed.

54. Cuba was seeking to build capacities with a view to ascertaining climate change impact in 2050 and 2100; studies of dangers and vulnerability were being conducted under a programme to address climate change adopted in 2007. Based on lessons learned over many years, Cuba had developed a comprehensive approach to disaster risk management, covering prevention, preparation, response and recovery. Such preparation had helped to ensure that no lives had been lost to Hurricane Matthew, despite the considerable material damage it had caused in the most easterly part of the country. Her country was committed to helping others affected by natural disasters. Medics from the Henry Reeve Brigade had recently been dispatched to provide assistance in mitigating the health effects of Hurricane Matthew on the people of Haiti.

55. Noting that Cuba fully supported the protection and sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea, she drew attention to the Havana Declaration "United for a Sustainable Caribbean" and the plan of action for 2016-2018 adopted at the Seventh Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, which it had hosted in June.

56. **Ms. Scott** (Namibia) said that her country welcomed the adoption of the ministerial declaration of the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, which provided political leadership, guidance and recommendations for implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. It looked forward to the forthcoming second High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which would provide further guidance for implementation of the ambitious agenda.

57. A multidimensional approach focusing on education and skills, economic and productive changes, diversifying the means of production, expanding international trade and facilitating the movement of goods and people across borders was required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In that connection, the Free Trade Area and the

pan-African passport were examples of citizen-led development. Africa needed to shift from commodity-based production to the production of higher-value goods and services. Noting the importance of greater regional integration and deeper domestic policy reforms to that end, she said that urbanization in African countries provided an opportunity to foster industrial development and social integration.

58. Desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change were closely linked and impeded global efforts to achieve sustainable development. As harsh environmental constraints made Namibia extremely vulnerable to external shocks, desertification was a major concern. Her country called for emphasis on land-based approaches to adaptation to build resilience to climate shocks and improve coping capacity. In collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Namibia had hosted the first African Drought Conference in August, which had focused on identifying the special needs of African countries in effective drought mitigation with a view to developing a strategic framework to enhance drought resilience, contribute to poverty eradication and economic development, and enhance environmental and human well-being. It looked forward to the forthcoming entry into force of the Paris Agreement and called on the international community to provide every assistance to help the people of Haiti rebuild their lives in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

59. **Mr. Cadena** (Ecuador) said that his country agreed that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, was the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and remained committed to the full realization of all the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Notwithstanding the importance of ODA commitments, the mobilization of new and additional resources, and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, many of the resources required would come from domestic sources, including from taxation revenue. In the case of Ecuador, some \$30 billion was hidden in tax havens. If that amount were invested in the country and tax returns filed, increased and more predictable resources would be available to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

60. Noting that development was the main responsibility of States, he said that poverty was no longer the result of a lack of resources, but of the existence of exclusive systems and of profound social and economic disparities. States must build stronger institutions to combat it. Ecuador welcomed the fact that the 2030 Agenda identified specific goals for equity in all its dimensions and sought to achieve better distribution of income and wealth within and between societies. It also reaffirmed its support for the high-level political forum as a platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and recognized the existence of different visions, models, approaches and realities for each country to achieve sustainable development. Ecuador recognized the importance of sustainable patterns of consumption and production and of increased dialogue on interaction between humans and Mother Earth. It welcomed the establishment in May 2016 of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to monitor achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level and was pleased that the Forum would take into account the sustainable development agreements adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

61. In conclusion, he expressed his country's condolences to the people of Haiti in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

62. **Ms. Bouillon Begin** (Canada) said that desertification was linked to many of Canada's development priorities, such as food security, agriculture, peace and security, water and renewable energy, and could hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In June, Canada had announced its intention to rejoin the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at the earliest opportunity, and looked forward to providing an update on progress in that regard in the coming weeks.

63. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) said that, despite some progress in establishing the institutional framework necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda, much remained to be done at the national and international levels. The United Nations, which had rich experience in the area of sustainable development, must be given support, including through the provision of necessary funding, in connection with the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

64. Poverty eradication was an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and would help to foster progress in other areas. His country, which had submitted its voluntary national review to the high-level political forum, considered that progress with regard to means of implementation was essential and called for the establishment of international partnerships to that end.

65. Climate change was a major challenge, particularly on the African continent; the funding necessary for adaptation in developing countries must be provided. His delegation reiterated the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water, which was so critical for life. It looked forward to the achievement of the relevant targets. Egypt would welcome the provision of information on the number of people facing a shortage of water and called for greater cooperation with respect to water resources.

66. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo), noting that carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels had exceeded the threshold of 400 parts per million for the first time, said that climate change did not just hinder the development of developing countries but constituted a threat to their very existence. All actions aimed at tackling climate change served to support sustainable development. The conclusion of the Paris Agreement had demonstrated the value of multilateralism. His country called for the development of a global partnership to help strengthen climate resilience, in particular in the most vulnerable countries.

67. His country was in the process of ratifying the Paris Agreement and would participate actively in the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It had also taken a number of other steps to combat the negative effects of climate change, including submitting two national communications to the UNFCCC Secretariat, evaluating needs in terms of technology for climate change adaptation and mitigation, promoting the green economy, developing a national system to monitor forests and establishing a national afforestation and reforestation programme with the aim of planting one million trees per year. Congo had also ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological

Diversity. It had made the promotion of renewable energy a priority in its national development and poverty reduction strategies, and was committed to generating 85 per cent of its electricity from hydropower by 2025.

68. In conclusion, he said that international cooperation for development must remain a key focus of the work of the Second Committee and urged development partners to honour their commitments to promoting sustainable development. The United Nations remained an essential platform for promoting partnerships and operational capacities to that end.

69. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the success of the 2030 Agenda required a move away from economics and statistics towards an emphasis on the human person and on integral human development. A paradigm shift in development thinking was required to effect a change not only in policies and institutions, but also in relationships among peoples and between human beings and the environment. The new person-centred paradigm to emerge would make everyone, including the poor and the marginalized, active agents of development rather than passive beneficiaries. In his address to the seventieth session of the General Assembly, Pope Francis had insisted that men and women must be allowed to be dignified agents of their own destiny in order to escape from extreme poverty.

70. He cautioned against an economic, social and environmental analysis focused primarily on the pursuit of financial gain rather than on the person. Such economic reductionism could never lead to integral human development and would set in motion a relentless process of exclusion and inequality that increased disparities and marginalization. It was important to take a hard look at a purely market-driven economic model and temper it with the fundamental demands of human dignity. In order to develop a well-ordered, mutually beneficial market economy, those engaged in business should look beyond the biggest margin and seek to serve the common good. His delegation therefore welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship for development (A/71/210), and encouraged national efforts, in particular in developing countries, to foster the good governance and honest entrepreneurship

necessary to foster and sustain integral human development.

71. **Ms. Ortiz de Urbina** (Observer for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)) said that renewable energy was an economically attractive answer to climate and energy security concerns. Indeed, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement had placed it at the heart of economic transformation. Statistics for 2016 showed that renewable generation capacity had increased by approximately one third in only five years with most of the growth coming from wind and solar energy. The number of countries with renewable energy targets now stood at 173, as compared to just 43 in 2005.

72. With the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 7, the world was entering a new era of change where energy transformation would drive economic transformation. Renewable energy had an important role to play in that regard. Solar-powered irrigation could help to increase yield and incomes, and it could foster the development of a climate-resilient infrastructure. Renewable energy could also improve water security since solar and wind energy consumed significantly less water than conventional energy options. Renewable energy also helped to generate employment, with the renewable energy sector estimated to have created some 9.4 million jobs in 2015.

73. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that climate change threatened food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture and rural development, which were key to the realization of the 2030 Agenda. FAO looked forward to the forthcoming entry into force of the Paris Agreement which, together with the 2030 Agenda, provided a common framework for collective support to countries and for robust country programming. There was a need for urgent action. The El Niño phenomenon was putting the agriculture, food security and nutritional status of more than 60 million people at risk. The international community must work together, breaking down silos in its work, ensuring consistency and coherence across United Nations pillars and the smooth transition from emergency to recovery and development.

74. The small island developing States were particularly vulnerable to climate change and disproportionately affected by its consequences. Local

livelihoods in those countries were heavily dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as fisheries and tourism. FAO was supporting the implementation of the Samoa Pathway in a number of ways, including through the development of an action programme to improve food security and nutrition.

75. Lastly, noting the importance of mountain ecosystems for sustainable development, she said that it was important not to neglect the needs of mountain communities in developing countries where one in every three persons was food insecure.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.