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Second Committee**Summary record of the 9th meeting**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/70/281)

(b) Women in development (A/70/256) and (A/69/156)

(c) Human resources development (A/70/293)

1. **Ms. Bas** (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/70/281), said that the report focused specifically on poverty eradication in Africa and the least developed countries. It highlighted activities undertaken by the United Nations system to implement the plan of action for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and also made some recommendations to further spur the efforts of countries to end poverty, reduce inequality, create decent jobs and boost food and nutrition security. While extreme poverty had declined in all regions, it remained unacceptably high in Africa and in the least developed countries. Inequality was also on the rise in many countries.

2. The report discussed the magnitude of the decent work deficit. The unemployment situation faced by women, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities and members of other disadvantaged social groups remained particularly difficult.

3. The report considered the extent to which the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty had helped countries and the international community remain focused on poverty eradication. Poverty eradication required accelerating and sustaining high levels of inclusive economic growth and national policies for enlarging factors of production, improving service delivery, addressing gender inequality and enabling the poor to acquire investment assets that could improve their future income. The effectiveness of all policies depended on sound national institutions, and Governments must

ensure that efforts to increase domestic revenue were designed to curb inequality. The availability of reliable data was critical for policy formulation, and for policy implementation and monitoring. Least developed countries needed greater capacity to collect, process, store and disseminate accurate, reliable, disaggregated data.

4. **Ms. Sen** (Director, Policy Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on women in development (A/70/256), said that meeting the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals required not only the dedicated commitment of Member States, but also transformative financing to ensure that the Goals were fully and effectively implemented and that gender equality and women's empowerment were realized. The momentum for new, transformative and decisive action for Planet 50-50 by 2030 had reached a peak at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, co-organized and co-hosted by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and China, held in September. The meeting had marked the first time that Heads of State and Government had been convened around commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment.

5. The report on women in development was timely, echoing critical concerns pertaining to the slow economic recovery that was not keeping pace with the rising need for jobs. The report offered guidance in fostering women's entrepreneurship and their entry into the labour market. While small and medium-sized enterprises provided approximately 80 per cent of job opportunities in developing and developed countries, women entrepreneurs faced particular constraints. The situation called for urgent long-term interlinked policy measures, complemented by efforts to address demand-side constraints that prevented many woman-owned small businesses from accessing markets and moving up supply chains.

6. The report pointed to macroeconomic policy flaws such as gender bias, insufficient focus on employment creation and restrictive choices that reduced countries' fiscal spaces and funding for gender equality initiatives. It warned against a "race to the bottom" propelled by the proportion of women trapped in vulnerable employment with no job security and no

benefits. Its conclusions and recommendations highlighted the need for, inter alia, skills development, guaranteed workers' rights and workplace norms and standards, and women's access to productive assets.

7. Investing in a gender-responsive macroeconomic framework, decent work for women and women's entrepreneurship, social protection, and recognition of women's unpaid care work would provide a genuine opportunity to tackle poverty eradication and enable Member States to position themselves for the delivery and impact of all Sustainable Development Goals, not just Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Indeed, the economic empowerment of women was critical to all of the Goals.

8. Many of the key messages of the report on women in development were in line with the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014*. The recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report should be considered alongside the Survey's criteria for determining whether investments in sustainable development would truly further gender equality and women's human rights. Actions to that end would be effective only if women participated equally in decision-making processes, whether in the household or at the local, national, regional and global levels.

9. **Mr. Hanif** (Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on human resources development (A/70/293), said that, in addressing the role of human resources in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the report placed particular emphasis on interlinkages with a number of Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and well-being, Goal 4 on education and learning, and Goal 8 on growth, employment and work). The General Assembly had repeatedly emphasized the critical role of human resources development in achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development. Countries that invested in human resources development were more likely to enter a virtuous cycle, where healthier and increasingly skilled citizens promoted innovation and economic growth, improving conditions for the population as a whole, as well as the national human resource base.

10. Unstable macroeconomic conditions, income inequalities, unemployment, poverty, the spread of infectious diseases and conflict were some of the obstacles that hindered and often reversed efforts to promote human resources development.

11. At the national level, human resources development strategies and approaches would need to be fully integrated into national sustainable development strategies, with continuous adjustments to national development needs and objectives. Those efforts must be supported by policy integration and cooperation at the regional and global levels.

12. **Ms. Castro Mazariegos** (Guatemala) asked what policies should be adopted to reduce poverty and inequality. The world economy had not fully recovered following the crisis, but no reference had been made to the challenges countries would face in increasing tax bases and fiscal spaces. She wondered how countries could work at the local level to combat illicit channelling of funding and tax havens and respond to lawyers' use of legal loopholes.

13. **Ms. Sen** (Director, Policy Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that it was imperative to consider the context for creating space for a better tax base that could be invested in the issues discussed in the report. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda addressed issues of tax havens and loopholes. Through cooperation, those issues must be fully and properly addressed, to enable countries to institute policies that would create such space.

14. **Mr. Hanif** (Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that whereas the definition of poverty in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had focused on the threshold of \$1.25 a day, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" defined poverty in a multidimensional way, going beyond income poverty. Poverty was a symptom, and inequality was the disease. There was a Sustainable Development Goal on equality, and the new Agenda addressed root causes. The central role in addressing poverty lay with national Governments, but regional and global conditions had to be conducive to supporting national poverty eradication efforts. The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda contained specific measures to support government poverty eradication efforts.

Investment in human capacity-building and human resources was needed, and that was where all societies must begin their poverty eradication work.

15. **Ms. Somhlaba** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Governments of developing countries must formulate their own development strategies in line with their national priorities and circumstances. Relevant policies and actions should focus on achieving strong, sustained and inclusive economic growth, employment generation as a priority, universal and affordable access to basic services, a well-designed social protection system, and empowerment of individuals to seize economic opportunities, and on ensuring environmental protection.

16. Inadequate resources and means were a major factor hampering poverty eradication efforts. The Group of 77 and China wished to reiterate the importance of recognizing the diverse needs and challenges of countries in special situations, especially African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries.

17. Poverty eradication must emphasize efforts to end hunger, achieve food security and end all forms of malnutrition. Resources should be channelled into rural areas, sustainable agriculture and fisheries and support for smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers, in developing countries. In mobilizing and providing access to resources, enhanced financial, technological and technical support was needed to facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries. The Group of 77 and China called for adequate assistance for technology transfer and financial resources for developing countries to develop their capacities to design and implement industrialization strategies and policies in accordance with national priorities.

18. Poverty would not be eradicated if the marginalization of women continued; the new agenda was based on the pledge to leave no one behind. Gender equality was of fundamental importance for inclusive growth and poverty eradication. The call to end poverty in all its forms everywhere would continue to ring hollow if women were not ensured equal access to education, skills, health care, social security, fundamental human rights, social and legal protection,

including occupational safety and health, and decent work opportunities. Efforts to address growing inequality within and across countries by promoting inclusive, equitable, job-rich economic growth must be informed by development strategies and policy frameworks that were not only pro-poor, but also promoted the empowerment of women.

19. The effects of climate change posed a threat to the eradication of poverty; those living in poverty were usually the most at risk from the adverse impacts of climate change. International cooperation must be forged to address the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, as well as sustainable management of natural resources. It was important to achieve an ambitious and universal climate agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Paris in December.

20. **Ms. Strasser King** (Sierra Leone), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that while the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had produced the most successful anti-poverty movement in human history, billions of people still lived in extreme poverty and hunger, with children suffering and dying from preventable diseases.

21. Agriculture and food security remained a top priority for Africa. In 2014, the vision of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme had been reaffirmed, and relevant targets had been set for coming years. African countries had committed to allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture. Moreover, African leaders had recently resolved to at least double current agricultural productivity and sustain agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) growth of at least 6 per cent. They had also undertaken to triple intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by 2025, accelerate the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area and transition to a continental Common External Tariff scheme. The initiatives would create more employment opportunities, particularly for youth. In that regard, the African Group called on the international community to support the implementation of various programmes under the New Partnership for

Africa's Development, especially the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

22. Industrial development was also a key sector for development in Africa. In 2015, African leaders had committed to speeding up the Productivity Agenda for Africa, which would build and enhance African economic competitiveness.

23. Health was a priority in poverty eradication efforts. The recent Ebola outbreak had underscored the need to increase investment to strengthen health-care systems on the continent. African leaders had made strong commitments to allocate at least 15 per cent of annual national budgets to the improvement of the health sector. The international community, including the United Nations, should continue to support response efforts led by national Governments to wipe out Ebola and address the profound socioeconomic effects of the outbreak.

24. In line with the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and its first 10-year implementation plan, Africa remained engaged in the process to implement the new agenda and stressed the need to ensure complementarity and synergies between Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

25. Africa's vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change was directly related to its low adaptive capacity. Two thirds of the African continent consisted of desert or dry land vital for agriculture and food production, but nearly three quarters of that land was deemed degraded to some extent. The region was affected by frequent, harsh droughts that had been particularly severe in recent years in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. Poverty and difficult socioeconomic conditions were widespread, with many people dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. In many African countries, fighting land degradation and desertification and mitigating the effects of drought were prerequisites for economic growth and social progress. Increasing sustainable land management and building resilience to drought would have profound positive impacts in Africa. Member States were therefore urged to support and strengthen implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008-2018). Developed countries

were urged to provide adequate means of implementation to that end, including through the mobilization of \$100 billion per year for the Green Climate Fund through 2020.

26. The African Group called for full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the recently adopted outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (the Samoa Pathway), and looked forward to the meaningful implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

27. Given the importance of partnership for development, it was imperative to continue to strengthen old forms of partnership, as expressed in Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals on the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

28. **Mr. Mac-Donald** (Suriname) speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that CARICOM was proud of the prominent role of its member States in the elaboration of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was integral to the 2030 Agenda. CARICOM had a strategic plan for 2015 through 2019, which focused on development, socioeconomic progress and increasing the region's resilience. CARICOM reiterated its commitment to the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 2008-2017, whose theme was "full employment and decent work for all."

29. Poverty in the Caribbean was predominantly a rural phenomenon, but could also be found in urban areas. More than one fourth of the unemployed people in the region were between 25 and 34 years of age. Unemployment, caused by lack of opportunity, mismatch between labour markets and skills, labour market saturation or low educational attainment, led to marginalization of youth and their involvement in illegal activities.

30. Although CARICOM countries had made significant progress towards Goal 2 of the MDGs on universal primary school enrolment, their education systems performed below acceptable standards and left most young people disenchanted; those with disabilities were at greater risk of marginalization.

31. The poor were the most vulnerable to climate change and economic shocks, lacked the means to

purchase wholesome food and were more susceptible to adverse health conditions. That was compounded by their inability to purchase private health insurance. Most CARICOM countries fell well below the Pan American Health Organization recommendation of 25 per cent of the health budget for primary health care services, which were often the first and only point of contact for the poor seeking to access health care.

32. CARICOM government poverty alleviation strategies had sought to improve or maintain the health and well-being of the poor, improve their marketability and build their self-help capacity, focusing on social protection and safety net policies and programmatic interventions targeting the poor in general as well as specific groups. Poverty reduction strategies were aimed at eradicating the root causes of poverty by focusing on the economic environment, stimulating economic growth and macroeconomic stability and addressing labour market deficiencies. Inequality was high in a number of CARICOM countries, which explained persistently high poverty rates in countries that had experienced strong economic growth.

33. Caribbean countries were vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks. The negative impact that climate change, globalization and trade agreements had on poverty reduction played out in the arenas of economic growth and employment, food security and health systems, including access to pharmaceuticals. Trade liberalization and some demands by international financial institutions for policy and institutional changes had left many countries with very limited ability to adjust to shocks, a decline in economic activity, growing unemployment and increased migration of skilled workers.

34. Crime and violence had emerged in the past decade as major challenges facing Caribbean countries. Illicit drug trafficking and use, poverty, social isolation, inequity and an inadequate judiciary were among the reasons for the increase in crime and violence. Multisectoral, culturally relevant risk reduction strategies that addressed social and situational causes and targeted youth should be pursued, hand in hand with judicial reform.

35. Poverty reduction would result from sustained economic growth accompanied by a decline in income inequality and greater investment in health and human development. Building adequate infrastructure to

attract industries and employment and facilitation of entrepreneurship should be priorities.

36. Education would be decisive in determining the region's ability to participate in the global market and attract the types of industries and investments needed to promote growth, which required a skilled, knowledge-based, technologically knowledgeable workforce. Entrepreneurial training and training to meet current labour market needs were priority areas that should be introduced or strengthened in the curriculum. The reform was being actively addressed by a CARICOM human resources development commission.

37. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that while the Group of Least Developed Countries was grateful for the brief mention of the least developed countries in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, it hoped that the next report would include a detailed analysis of trends in addressing poverty in both absolute and relative terms, efforts made by the least developed countries in that respect, and challenges to rapid progress along with concrete recommendations for addressing them.

38. Progress in eradicating poverty had been too slow in many of the least developed countries. Least developed countries were, as a group, still far from achieving the MDGs. In sub-Saharan Africa, programmes to address extreme poverty had yet to yield significant results. The number of people living in poverty in those countries had been reduced from 416.4 million in 2010 to 403.2 million in 2015; however, in 1990, there had been 287.1 million people living in extreme poverty in that same region, suggesting that, success aside, it would still be home to nearly 50 million more poor people in 2030 than 40 years earlier.

39. That was a future that no one wanted. The issue of poverty must be addressed in a fundamentally different way. One of the key priorities of the Istanbul Programme of Action was productive capacity-building in the least developed countries. According to the report of the Secretary-General, the great success of Ethiopia in significantly reducing poverty levels was closely tied to strengthening the agricultural sector, focusing on high-potential industrial sectors and foreign direct investment (FDI). Those were areas in

which the least developed countries needed assistance from the international community.

40. The Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda must be synchronized. The special provisions for least developed countries in the Sustainable Development Goals must be operationalized to address the widening poverty gap in some countries.

41. The least developed countries urgently needed assistance with disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation programmes for least developed countries whose infrastructures were being destroyed by natural disasters. Climate change was driving the populations of least developed countries further into extreme poverty.

42. Quality education, decent job creation and technology transfer would offer least developed countries immense opportunities to strengthen industrialization and the productive capacities of youth.

43. The least developed countries believed that global priorities should focus on the percentage of people living in poverty, not only on the absolute number; countries' capacities to respond to challenges themselves; the pace of progress in poverty reduction over the years; and national resource endowments.

44. The national Governments of least developed countries must ensure that development programmes addressed their people's needs and would benefit the extremely poor. While rural development played an important role in eradicating poverty, least developed countries were becoming increasingly urban with every passing year; the issue of sustainable urban life must therefore be taken into consideration in poverty eradication programmes for least developed countries.

45. The World Bank had adjusted the poverty line to \$1.90 a day. The Group of Least Developed Countries would appreciate further details as to how that adjustment would affect poverty measurement benchmarks in the United Nations.

46. Women held great potential as agents for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Special attention should be paid to the empowerment of women in all of the cross-cutting sectors of sustainable development. Globally, there were still many constraints on ensuring equal opportunity for women, but least developed countries were committed to ensuring the political and economic participation of

women in all spheres. Many least developed countries had begun implementation of gender-responsive budgets at both the national and local levels. The economic emancipation of women was necessary to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and establish their rights.

47. **Mr. Cadena** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that according to the latest report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), nearly 165 million people in the region were living in poverty and 69 million people were living in extreme poverty. While the region had achieved most of the MDGs and almost all CELAC States had been classified as middle-income countries, inequalities between and within those countries must still be effectively addressed.

48. The multidimensional nature of development and poverty must be better understood. The eradication of poverty and hunger was an ethical, social, political and economic imperative. The United Nations system and the international financial system should develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that went beyond per capita income, recognizing poverty in all of its forms and dimensions and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels. Efforts to develop and implement tools to mainstream sustainable development and monitor sustainable development impacts on various economic activities would have to be ongoing.

49. CELAC member States agreed with the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) on supporting the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

50. For CELAC member States, sustainable development could not be attained without including vulnerable groups such as indigenous and other tribal populations, people of African descent, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, children and adolescents. Equity, social and financial inclusion and access to fair credit were central to ensuring overall access to justice, citizen participation, well-being and a dignified life for all.

51. In that regard, CELAC member States reaffirmed the central role of follow-up and review and the

strengthening of national and regional data systems. The disaggregation of data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other relevant characteristics according to national contexts was a tool for making social and regional disparities visible and addressing inequalities with comprehensive policies.

52. CELAC member States reaffirmed the importance of fostering equality and actions to ensure gender equity, women's empowerment, respect for diversity, access to decent work, quality education, information technologies, health and a life free of violence and discrimination. Women's equal participation in decision-making at all levels of government, including regional and local governments, was necessary to consolidate democracy and advance towards more participatory, inclusive societies respectful of their rights.

53. Convinced that sustainable development could be achieved only in conditions of genuine equality between men and women, CELAC welcomed the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; without comprehensive gender-based strategies, the Goals would not be met. CELAC member States also reaffirmed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, reaffirming the importance of full compliance by States parties with their international obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto.

54. Increasingly concerned about the feminization of poverty, the unequal burden of unpaid care work, including care for children, older persons and persons suffering from both communicable and non-communicable diseases, violence against women and trafficking in women and children, CELAC member States reaffirmed the importance of eradicating poverty and guaranteeing equal access for all women to food and housing opportunities and public services. In that regard, they attached particular importance to the protection of women and girls in migrant families. The contributions of women migrant workers to the development of their countries of destination and of origin must be fully recognized and their human rights fully respected, regardless of their legal status.

55. The States members of CELAC supported the integration of science, technological knowledge and innovation systems, in alignment with national development objectives, into national human resources development and poverty eradication strategies, taking into account the specific features of the economy in developing countries, including the size of the traditional sector, the importance of indigenous knowledge, access to skilled labour and capital, infrastructure and institutional frameworks, in order to generate solutions that addressed national challenges and fostered synergies between science and technology, on the one hand, and indigenous and local knowledge, on the other. Human resources development could also be addressed by the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including in the context of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

56. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that poverty eradication was a moral imperative. For the first time in history, poverty was caused not by a shortage of resources but by the existence of cruel and exclusionary systems. The emphasis in the 2030 Agenda on equality in all its dimensions was gratifying, given that the best poverty reduction strategy involved reducing social, economic, territorial, environmental and cultural disparities.

57. In Ecuador, it had become apparent that securing economic resources was not sufficient to end poverty. It was necessary to expand the services available to the population to stimulate improvement in people's condition, through capacity-building, income, education and strengthened social protection services to prevent downward spirals. Programmes to address poverty must be comprehensive in their design.

58. The Constitution of Ecuador proposed a development vision that transcended monetary approaches, relying on a concept that promoted personal harmony and harmony with the community and nature. Ecuador supported the design of a multidimensional poverty index as a public policy input that would encourage the effective adoption of social programmes based on the four dimensions of education, communication and information; work and social protection; health, water and sanitation; and habitat, housing and a healthy environment. The ultimate focus of all actions was the human being, who was to be valued above capital.

59. **Mr. Tuy** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that despite progress, the number of people living in extreme poverty remained unacceptably high. Drawing on lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs, policies and development efforts must respond to the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development. Through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, achievement of the 2030 Agenda was within reach. ASEAN welcomed the adoption of both those outcome documents.

60. Committed to eradicating poverty, ASEAN had established a number of integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to address the development gap, rural development, community empowerment, stakeholder engagement and partnership for development. As poverty eradication and rural development were closely linked, ASEAN had adopted the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2004-2010 and 2011-2015. The 2011-2015 Framework outlined strategy and actions under six priorities: sustainable rural development and rural economic growth; food security and food sovereignty amidst climate change; social protection and safety nets; development of infrastructure and human resources in rural areas; constituency-building for rural development and poverty eradication; and monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction.

61. ASEAN had made concerted efforts to narrow the development gap, including through information-sharing by documenting best practices of ASEAN member States and the challenges they faced in implementing their rural development and poverty eradication policies. It was advancing community empowerment through multisectoral strategies and programmes that afforded individuals, families and communities greater access to microfinance and credit and promoted entrepreneurship skills, women's empowerment, local agricultural and fisheries products, farming techniques and vocational skills development.

62. ASEAN had established a forum on rural development and poverty eradication for information-sharing between stakeholders, such as government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and launched awards to recognize the achievements of civil society organizations to rural and community development and to improving the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups.

63. Partnerships were crucial to poverty eradication, particularly in the form of support from the developed countries to provide the necessary enabling environment and means of implementation for developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries. ASEAN urged developed countries to meet their commitment to the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) to developing countries and 0.15-0.20 per cent of GNI to least developed countries. South-South and triangular cooperation should be strengthened as a complement to North-South cooperation.

64. The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 marked a historic milestone for ASEAN.

65. **Mr. Amer** (Israel) said that through collective efforts, hundreds of millions of lives had been drastically improved, and the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty had been achieved five years early. However, 1.2 billion people still lived on less than \$1.25 a day.

66. Poverty was inherently multidimensional, affecting all facets of life and requiring a multidimensional response. Financial assistance was crucial, but could not by itself change the reality on the ground. A comprehensive approach was needed that addressed causes as well as symptoms. Israel had learned that during its own development, as the country had been transformed, over the course of just 68 years, from barren desert into a flourishing nation and member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), through an approach that emphasized human capital. People were a nation's best natural resource, and it was only by building their capacity and investing in them directly that lasting results and impact on those in need could be achieved.

67. Gender inequality contributed to the perpetuation of poverty. Israel strongly believed that empowering women was a prerequisite for eradicating poverty. Everyone was aware of the exceptional benefits to society that resulted from investments in women and girls. Women who had the opportunity to produce an income reinvested almost all their earnings in the family, creating a positive ripple effect across the community.

68. Gender equality required specific actions at the national level. Israel had laws regulating equal pay and equal opportunity in the workplace, as well as social protection. Gender discrimination in the workplace and public institutions was not tolerated.

69. However, laws alone were not enough. Israel fostered an environment conducive to entrepreneurial growth, thereby empowering people to solve the problems around them by themselves and for themselves. Israel was committed to sharing its expertise in innovation and entrepreneurship to assist those living at the margins of society. That included expanding the field of venture philanthropy, involving businesses that turned a profit, while providing opportunities and skills to disadvantaged populations ranging from high school dropouts to adults with disabilities.

70. The Koret Foundation, an Israeli philanthropic organization, had facilitated over \$300 million of new financing via partner banks to more than 12,000 new and expanding micro-businesses, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, thereby creating and sustaining nearly 50,000 new and existing private sector jobs, including in the ultra-Orthodox and Arab sectors.

71. The inclusion of civil society at the international, regional, national and local levels would be instrumental in reaching those who had been left furthest behind.

72. **Ms. Luna** (Mexico) said that Mexico had been actively involved in the 2030 Agenda negotiations. The concept of multidimensional poverty, essential to the new framework, was enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a cross-cutting element for determining the essential components of social, economic and environmental development.

73. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda would begin on 1 January 2016, based on lessons learned from the MDGs. Its operationalization must be based on a framework that took into account public policies, means of implementation and appropriate follow-up.

74. As a middle-income country, Mexico was implementing programmes such as a national anti-hunger campaign, which was a comprehensive political, economic and social strategy that was seeking structural and permanent solutions. That and other

programmes combined government, civil society, private sector, academic and community efforts and resources for the purpose of providing the most vulnerable groups with a minimum set of rights that were enshrined in the Constitution.

75. Mexico also had an official multidimensional method for measuring poverty that went beyond income to include educational level, access to health care, food and social security, as well as quality and size of housing, basic housing services and social cohesion. The measurements analysed gaps from the standpoint of social rights, combining economic and social policy to apply technology to improving well-being. The goal was to have in place, by 2016, global multidimensional poverty measurement tools that went beyond per capita income, as well as public policies and national, regional and global measures that took into account all dimensions.

76. The new development framework aimed to address inequality and eradicate poverty in all its dimensions, guarantee sustainable livelihoods for all, guarantee the rule of law and good governance, create more jobs in more productive sectors, increase income, reduce precarious forms of employment, eradicate hunger, empower women and girls and provide quality education, health care and sustainability in the use of natural resources. That set of comprehensive and multidimensional measures could be summed up in the principle “no one left behind”. Mexico hoped the Second Committee would pave the way for its implementation.

77. **Mr. Raja Zaib Shah** (Malaysia) said that progress in addressing poverty had been uneven. While in seven least developed countries in Asia, poverty had dropped from 64.4 per cent in 1990 to 31.9 per cent in 2011, poverty in African least developed countries during the same period had only been reduced from 66.6 per cent to 50.4 per cent, which meant that the MDG target had not been met there. In that regard, Malaysia supported the recommendations on promoting holistic and inclusive policies to address poverty and related development issues, set out in the Secretary-General’s report (A/70/281, para. 73 (a)-(f)).

78. Only 1 per cent of households in Malaysia lived below the poverty line. Initiatives in Malaysia included a programme launched in 2011 to develop financial skills and provide capacity-building for those in need. There was also a database to ensure that financial aid

was channelled to the neediest. Between 2010 and 2014, 6 out of 10 Malaysians registered under the database had been lifted out of poverty owing to those efforts.

79. Legal and institutional frameworks were in place to safeguard women's rights and improve their status. As a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Malaysia was committed to implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Women and girls in Malaysia enjoyed equal education opportunities; between 2009 and 2012, enrolment of women for first degrees in public universities had consistently been above 62 per cent. His Government continued to take measures to increase the participation of women in the workforce; the target of 55 per cent participation would be reached by the end of 2015.

80. In its first global Human Capital Index, the World Economic Forum had recognized that Malaysia had recorded significant improvement in developing and nurturing healthy, educated and able workers. Malaysia continued to invest in human capital development.

81. **Ms. Karabaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that education was the primary guarantee of an individual's future and clearly demonstrated the linkages among the Sustainable Development Goals. Involving children in preschool programmes and schooling led to reduced inequality, including gender inequality, and improved nutrition and health, and resulted in females marrying later. Kyrgyzstan had had a good outcome for Goal 2 of the MDGs on universal primary education. Census results had shown that educational levels in Kyrgyzstan were high. The literacy rate had increased from 98.7 per cent in 1999 to 99.2 per cent in 2009. As part of its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Kyrgyzstan aimed to prepare young people with the knowledge they needed to engage in life-long learning.

82. In Kyrgyzstan, diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 51 per cent of all deaths. There had been little progress in reducing maternal mortality, a problem complicated by such factors as internal and external migration, poverty among women and girls and early marriage. In 2013, a national plan of action to address the issue had been elaborated jointly with the MDG Acceleration Framework of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Reforms to health care had reduced the financial burden on the

public and improved access to health care for socially vulnerable population groups.

83. Kyrgyzstan's national strategy to achieve gender equality by 2020 included such priorities as women in the economy, functional education, access to justice and political equality. A national council on gender had been established in 2012 within the executive branch, to coordinate the development and implementation of gender policy. Kyrgyzstan had assumed a number of obligations under the Planet 50-50 by 2030 programme, and intended to mainstream gender into human resources policy at the national and municipal levels, provide information support to promote women's political participation and leadership, and support women's political leadership at all levels. Over the next five years, Kyrgyzstan intended to step up efforts to expand the economic and social rights of women, particularly in rural areas.

84. Kyrgyzstan had achieved the Millennium Development Goal on poverty reduction in 2008, but maintaining the indicator had proven difficult, owing to the world financial crisis, which had slowed economic growth, reduced remittances from migrants and led to higher food prices. Domestic political events in 2010 had also caused conditions to deteriorate. External factors such as the devaluation of national currencies and sanctions were still having an impact on development, and poverty indicators were once again on the rise. The Government would have to redistribute financial resources as a stabilizing measure and strengthen social support by increasing salaries, pensions and payments to needy families.

85. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that poverty eradication should remain a priority for the United Nations, as should strengthened cooperation of all partners, including the leading specialized international bodies and regional organizations. Poverty eradication was a central part of Russian international development policy.

86. On its own and in conjunction with international organizations, including the United Nations, the Russian Federation was carrying out programmes designed to support development in needy countries and address the most acute problems facing their people. The country financed programmes in the areas of food security, education, health care, energy, infrastructure, environmental protection and commercial, economic and industrial capacity-building and worked

to relieve the debt burdens of the poorest countries, writing off, for example, \$20 billion in debt owed by African countries. Debt-for-development swaps represented one of the most promising areas in the field of debt relief.

87. The previous year, the Russian Federation had increased its international aid by 20 per cent, with more than \$127 million provided through the United Nations alone, and a total aid contribution of \$875 million, as measured by OECD.

88. **Mr. Khamas** (Iraq) said that his Government had promulgated a national poverty reduction strategy that included employment, provision of higher-income jobs and improved education for the poor by adjusting vocational curricula to labour market demands and linking cash assistance to education. Achieving effective participation by women and youth in line with the 2030 Agenda would require overcoming economic obstacles and facilitating the integration of women into economic life. For reasons of financial security, women in Iraq generally preferred working in the public sector over the private sector; however, their presence in the private sector should be increased.

89. Security matters were decisive in achieving women's participation in economic, social and political life. Wars and terrorism were creating an abnormal situation in which women were often left as their families' sole breadwinners. That was unacceptable from the humanitarian standpoint.

90. Access to education and financing were prerequisites for enabling women to improve their socioeconomic, financial and political status. Women's rights were guaranteed under the Constitution of Iraq, and Iraqi women occupied various senior positions in the Government. The participation of women in public life had been expanded; women were prominent in decision-making processes, and in Parliament. The Government had established a committee on women's and children's affairs in Parliament and an office to address the concerns of divorced and widowed women within the Ministry of Social Affairs. A strategy to improve the status of women was under development and numerous non-governmental organizations were addressing women's concerns, particularly domestic violence.

91. Attacks by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had produced many refugees and internally displaced persons, many of them poor. The

situation exceeded Iraq's capacities to respond. Gross violations of human rights included murder, rape and sexual enslavement of women, coercive displacement and destruction of infrastructure. Defeating terrorism would therefore have a direct effect on poverty reduction and on the success of his Government's actions under the national poverty reduction strategy.

92. **Mr. Rodrigues dos Santos** (Brazil) said that while there had been remarkable progress in poverty reduction, including halving extreme poverty from 1990 levels, that progress had been uneven, with some countries and people left behind. As the report of the Secretary-General indicated, both the global economic crisis and conflicts were having a negative impact on poverty reduction, increasing the risk that hard-won achievements might be reversed in many countries.

93. The Sustainable Development Goals recognized that poverty eradication was a prerequisite to sustainable development that required decent jobs, access to food and basic services such as health and education, structural economic transformation and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

94. Stressing the importance of inclusive discussions on concepts that could impact sustainable development efforts, he said that the new agenda did not prescribe automatic application of the recent change in the World Bank poverty threshold and rate, which was not based on broader participation or inputs.

95. Brazil's experience over the past decade proved that solutions for poverty eradication and the creation of decent jobs should not be limited to economic expansion and market forces alone. Countries needed to put in place strong social, economic and environmental policies to ensure inclusive development, with effective income distribution, access to basic public services, especially health and education, and targeted action to mitigate and halt the structural drivers of inequality, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups.

96. Effective policies for social inclusion and poverty eradication, such as conditional cash transfer programmes, along with social protection policies, had had important positive results. The number of people living in poverty in Brazil had been reduced to one seventh of the total population, and Brazil had graduated from the Hunger Map of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

97. The flagship *Bolsa Familia* programme guaranteed a complementary income for 14 million poor families in Brazil, in the form of a cash transfer conditional upon enrolment of children in school and frequent health check-ups. It had reduced child mortality by 60 per cent among beneficiary families and had particularly benefited women, who, based on studies, made better use of resources. Hence, it was possible to advance women's empowerment while simultaneously enhancing programme efficiency.

98. During the summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the Brazilian Minister of Social Development had said that the expertise to measure, evaluate and monitor poverty currently existed, as did the technical knowledge necessary to define the indicators and targets that would shape the Sustainable Development Goals, making it possible to create a world without hunger and poverty.

99. **Ms. Engelbrecht Schadtler** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the neoliberal policies of the countries of the North and of multilateral financial institutions had led to extreme social inequalities and a significant increase in poverty and hunger in almost all countries of the world, and especially in the South. Increased poverty was the logical outcome of the unjust distribution of wealth and the concentration of resources in the hands of the privileged few, influenced by the economic policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Eradicating poverty and hunger would not be viable without sovereignty over natural resources and without political and economic autonomy.

100. The 2030 Agenda was universal in nature and applied to poor and rich alike. The old, capitalist thinking must be discarded. The greatest strides in lifting people out of poverty had been achieved by States, individually or jointly with other developing countries, more than by private actors. It was necessary to build a new international social and ethical architecture that was based on other development models and visions. Her country's people-centred approach was based on solidarity, justice, social inclusion, equity, gender equality, promotion of and respect for human rights and civic participation.

101. Venezuela had undertaken poverty eradication and development commitments to build an inclusive and participatory society in which its people could lead dignified lives while enjoying social, economic,

environmental, political and civil rights in a balanced and universal fashion. Food policies were necessary to implement the human right to food, and resources had to be channelled directly to the population to overcome extreme poverty. Venezuela intended to achieve social inclusion and overcome inequalities and would focus on early child development to break the cycle of poverty. Measures were being taken to establish conditions for decent housing through a redistribution of wealth.

102. Venezuela took a multidimensional approach to poverty, which it viewed as stemming from the unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities. It rejected the measurement criteria of international organizations, which focused too narrowly on income. The concept of poverty could not be reduced to monetary or economic terms.

103. Education and inclusion based on the principles of solidarity were key to ensuring that individuals living in poverty could move beyond it. Such principles should go hand in hand with the creation of productive employment and dignified and decent work, especially for young people and women. Providing vulnerable groups with universal access to basic social protection was crucial to reducing poverty and inequality, especially for women, the elderly and the disabled. She encouraged the application of policies to improve agricultural productivity, living standards, and food security and nutrition in rural areas, and to promote microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, with an emphasis on the role of women

104. **Mr. Al-Khayarin** (Qatar) said that the eradication of poverty in all its forms remained one of the greatest challenges facing the world and was indispensable for the achievement of sustainable development. It required working in a spirit of cooperation, promoting sustainable and equitable growth and promoting opportunities for productive and decent employment, especially for youth. Policies were needed to improve livelihoods and food security, especially in poor, rural societies.

105. The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty focused on full employment and providing decent work for all. There were 1.6 billion people living in families that suffered from multidimensional poverty, mostly in middle-income countries. Access to quality education was a vital means to eradicate poverty and create better

employment prospects. There were still 100 million children who did not complete primary education and 58 million who were not enrolled in school. Education was a priority for Qatar, which provided quality education for its citizens and was carrying out a universal initiative to provide education, especially in communities plagued by poverty and conflict.

106. Poverty eradication efforts would fall short of their aim if not supplemented by enhanced gender equality and women's empowerment. Women bore most of the costs of economic, social and environmental unsustainability. No development plan would be sustainable unless it established partnership on an equitable basis for women and protection of human rights, increasing women's access to decent work. That was a basic condition for sustainable socioeconomic development.

107. As part of an ongoing effort to promote human rights for women and enable them in all fields, his Government sought to integrate women's issues, particularly decent employment and enhanced social protection, in its policies, including its comprehensive human development policy. That was embodied in the national vision for 2030, whose fundamental pillar was women's empowerment and enhancement of their capacities. Although women's participation had previously been confined to fields such as education and health, increasing numbers currently worked in various fields, playing important roles. Qatar had established a health coverage scheme that provided mandatory basic health coverage for citizens and visitors. Women's empowerment also involved the promotion of policies focused on families.

108. **Mr. Lu Yuhui** (China) said that poverty not only impeded the economic development and social progress of developing countries, but was also a root cause of conflict, environmental degradation and the spread of terrorism. Poverty eradication must be the overarching goal of the post-2015 framework, and the international community must create an enabling environment, providing people of all countries with equal opportunities for development. Poverty eradication should be based on the development approach and be the main priority in national development. Fiscal support must be strengthened and poverty eradicated through economic growth. Governments ought to build up the capacity of vulnerable groups and encourage enterprises and social groups to pool poverty eradication efforts. Poverty

must be eliminated through sustainable approaches that did not achieve results at the expense of the environment. It was necessary to promote comprehensive and coordinated social, economic and environmental development, adjust the structure of the economy, improve economic development and provide market mechanisms to ensure that the fruits of development were shared by the entire population.

109. Cooperation was also crucial to poverty eradication. More equitable global development partnerships must be established to that end. Developed countries must provide effective aid to eradicate poverty in developing countries, particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries. Development must be a core task in global economic governance, and developing countries' representation and voice in economic governance and the formulation of rules must increase. It was necessary to fully promote growth of global trade and investment, build open economies and seek mutual benefits, win-win outcomes and joint development.

110. China had been the first country to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty, but it remained the largest developing country in the world. According to China's current standards, there were still more than 70 million people living in poverty in China. By World Bank standards, more than 200 million people in China were living in poverty. China would focus efforts on raising living standards and achieving poverty eradication. Since 2007, China had sponsored high-level forums on poverty reduction with the United Nations and carried out active bilateral, regional and international exchanges on poverty reduction. The eighth high-level forum on poverty eradication would be held in Beijing in October 2015. The President of China would address the gathering. The forum would provide momentum for global efforts to implement the post-2015 development agenda with poverty eradication at its core.

111. **Ms. Korolova** (Ukraine) said that conflict impeded progress against poverty. Insurgent activities that had been provoked and were being supported were breaching the territorial integrity of Ukraine, leading to a major humanitarian crisis. That had caused increased poverty and social exclusion among Ukrainians, with vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons, families with children, persons with disabilities, people residing in rural areas and orphans the most affected. Between 20 and 25 per cent of Ukrainian households

were currently poor. The poverty rate among the most vulnerable sociodemographic group, children under 18 years of age, had reached 33 per cent. External aggression had led to a new form of poverty, namely sudden or unexpected poverty, which affected the lives of 1.5 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

112. Despite exceptionally challenging circumstances, Ukraine had established strong, effective internal mechanisms and relationships of trust with its international partners to implement all aspects of the humanitarian response for Ukraine and had initiated development and recovery plans for affected areas. The Ministry of Social Policy had initiated a national poverty reduction strategy designed in accordance with the European platform against poverty and social exclusion and the European Social Charter, which was carefully adapted to the Ukrainian context.

113. Given that poverty and hunger eradication were possible only when interconnected factors were addressed together, the poverty reduction strategy in Ukraine would be linked to a series of other reforms in the field of employment policy, social security, education and health care. Extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders would ensure that the strategy contained specific poverty reduction measures and specified the institutions responsible and key performance indicators for evaluation.

114. In light of the crisis, Ukraine was committed to continuing work on restoring progress on poverty reduction and achieving a threefold reduction in the poverty rate. Ukraine would do its utmost to comply fully with the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

115. **Ms. Samarasinghe** (Sri Lanka) said that without the contribution of women, sustainable development would be impossible. Women's contributions were important at every level and stage of decision-making and policy-setting. The report of the Secretary-General provided useful insights into emerging development issues that had affected the role of women in the economy and demonstrated the importance of keeping gender equality at the centre of sustainable development. Sustainable development must be addressed in a way that safeguarded the rights of women and girls. Unsustainable patterns of development intensified gender inequality, with women

and girls often disproportionately affected by economic, social and environmental shocks. It was therefore encouraging to note that the centrality of gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's rights in achieving sustainable development had increasingly been recognized in recent decades. That recognition was epitomized by Goal 5 and relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

116. Full human potential and sustainable development could not be achieved if half of humanity continued to be denied their full human rights and opportunities. The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the new agenda was therefore critical. Women had been important development partners in Sri Lanka, contributing critically to development and playing a substantial role in the country's overall success in achieving the MDGs. Representing 52 per cent of the population, women were the backbone of the national economy and contributed significantly to the well-being of society.

117. Sri Lanka had made an early start in gender equality and women's empowerment. The universal adult vote had been introduced in Sri Lanka in 1931, with free education for both boys and girls and free health care introduced very soon after independence. Sri Lanka had adopted a women's charter two years before the Beijing Platform for Action and also had a national plan of action on women, which was currently being updated. There was a dedicated ministry for matters related to women and children. Nonetheless, much remained to be done in order to achieve genuine gender equality and women's empowerment in Sri Lanka. The protracted conflict had resulted in a large number of victims, including orphans, war widows, single mothers and female-headed households. Addressing their concerns and making arrangements for those vulnerable social groups was a government priority in the short term.

118. In times of conflict, women had taken on the role of peacemakers and peacebuilders. They were not celebrated, but they were the foundation for peace and must be supported. Long-term issues were also a priority for Sri Lanka as it sought to harness the full potential of women to help achieve sustainable development. That could be done only by acknowledging the existence of institutionalized and structural gender bias and sincerely seeking solutions

to problems. Sri Lanka was committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and had already begun to integrate Sustainable Development Goals into its national plans and policies. In doing so, Sri Lanka was taking very seriously the responsibility of ensuring the promotion and protection of the rights of women.

119. **Ms. Fofana** (Burkina Faso) said that despite the progress made under the MDGs, more than 1.2 billion people around the world still lived on less than \$1.25 a day, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty had been reduced in Burkina Faso owing to sustained economic growth over the previous decade, but tremendous challenges remained. The population continued to suffer from unequal access to basic social services, a high demographic growth rate (3.1 per cent), extreme poverty and vulnerability of the economy to external shocks.

120. Poverty was primarily a rural phenomenon in most African countries, including Burkina Faso. To overcome poverty, the post-2015 development agenda must emphasize agricultural development, access to basic social services such as education and health care, creation of decent jobs, the empowerment of women, promotion of the private sector and agroprocessing. Development of the agricultural sector in poor countries would create job opportunities and add value to agricultural products. Support by the international community for capacity-building in the agricultural sector should therefore be a priority.

121. A lack of job opportunities for young people was pushing many towards despair and immigration, often under life-threatening circumstances. The international community must provide more support for microenterprises and small and medium-sized businesses, as well as for youth training and capacity-building.

122. The empowerment of women and gender equality were essential to combat poverty. Women represented more than half the population and were active in all spheres of life, but still faced enormous difficulties, such as inadequate schooling and difficult access to health care, credit and land. Burkina Faso had adopted a policy recognizing all of the rights of women enshrined in international legal instruments. Implementation of that policy was producing impressive results. Another national policy was focused on the development of productive capacities,

which aimed to achieve strong and sustained economic growth that would have a multiplier effect on income levels and quality of life.

123. Access to a decent job should be a universal objective, for it was central to full achievement of one's human potential, as well as to social cohesion and human dignity, and should be at the core of social policy. Similarly, universal social protection improved individual resilience and strengthened overall economic resilience. It should therefore be a reality for all, rich and poor alike.

124. The transitional Government of Burkina Faso had, at a cost of 25 billion CFA francs, put in place an emergency socioeconomic programme to respond to public need and address poverty. The programme stressed initiatives for youth and women, as well as strengthened educational and health infrastructure. At the global level, special attention should be paid to financing for social policies, as part of a collective effort to implement agreed programmes on poverty elimination.

125. **Mr. Aboulwafa** (Egypt) said that although the Secretary-General's report claimed that poverty had been reduced in all regions of the world, that achievement was marred by stark regional differences, with more than 800 million people still living in extreme poverty, half of them in Africa. Also alarming was the fact that, owing to various economic and political situations, poverty rates had begun rising in the Middle East and North Africa.

126. The report of the Secretary-General noted that the global labour market situation remained uneven or fragile, and that youth unemployment had increased around the world, owing to the fact that employment was not expanding fast enough to keep up with the growing labour force. The Middle East and North Africa had the highest unemployment rates of all regions, undermining poverty eradication efforts and equitable economic growth.

127. An enabling international environment was urgently needed to support national poverty eradication efforts. The international community must implement agreed commitments, particularly with regard to official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment and free and fair terms of trade, and scale up the global partnership for development. Facilitating transfer of technology by developed countries to the

developing world was critical in aiding development efforts and accelerating economic growth.

128. Democratic governance at the international level was essential, as was reform of the international financial architecture to allow the participation of developing countries in international decision-making and norm-setting. The programmes and funds of the United Nations should provide additional support to recipient countries in implementing pro-poor policies aligned with their national priorities and programmes. Market access in developed countries for the agricultural and manufactured goods and services of developing countries would help to create productive jobs and thus support poverty eradication efforts.

129. Egypt was fulfilling its commitment to poverty reduction through a combination of sustainable economic growth, income distribution and social development policies, taking proactive policy measures to attain faster and inclusive growth and promote skills development and industrial transformation. In 2014, Egypt had begun to tackle major structural challenges, including energy subsidy reform, improving the efficiency of social safety nets by adopting cash transfer programmes, and broadening the narrow tax base. Some important human development indicators had shown dramatic improvement, including child mortality, life expectancy and educational attainment. Gender gaps in education had been closing in the urban areas, and regional gaps in education and health outcomes had narrowed.

130. **Ms. Cavelier** (Colombia) said that between 2009 and 2014, 4.4 million people in Colombia had emerged from poverty. However, that was insufficient. Poverty in all its dimensions must be eradicated, and inequality reduced.

131. For the work of the Second Committee to be aligned with the new commitments, it was necessary to work with five priorities in mind. First, poverty must be addressed as a multidimensional phenomenon and not be simplistically reduced to income indicators. Second, efforts to reduce inequality must be strengthened through measures to strengthen and enlarge the middle class and special measures for disadvantaged groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly, migrants, indigenous peoples, people of African descent and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Third, national and international cooperation must be increased to mobilize

the financial and non-financial resources needed to overcome poverty. Fourth, structural transformation and economic diversification were needed at the national and international levels, and that should be accompanied by a revitalization of the global partnership for development. Fifth, there must be promotion of inclusive, equitable jobs that guaranteed social protection for all. Decent work fostered social and economic progress, strengthening individuals, families and communities. Precarious and informal employment must be addressed.

132. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were essential to sustainable development. Colombia recognized the unique role of all women, both rural and urban, regardless of age, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity or disability, in the eradication of poverty, strengthening of food security, environmental protection, inclusive economic growth and sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

133. Concrete policies were needed to ensure equality. In the labour market, it would be important, for both remunerated and non-remunerated work, to reduce and redistribute the burden of domestic labour for women and girls, assign value to caregiving and encourage men to participate as partners in promoting equality and women's empowerment. Policies must also focus on the use of information and communication technologies by women, including through capacity-building; the economic empowerment of women and their access to the financial system and financial services, their involvement in productive activity and their ability to balance work and family; gender mainstreaming for national, regional and local budgets; and finally, collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated gender data on access to decent work, women's entrepreneurship and social protection, so as to highlight women's reality and needs and develop more effective policies. The growing worldwide trend of inequality was disturbing. Mere survival was not enough. All human beings, both men and women, should flourish and prosper in equitable and inclusive societies.

134. **Mr. Ry Tuy** (Cambodia), speaking in his national capacity, said that Cambodia had made remarkable transformations over the previous two decades, especially in achieving full peace, strong political stability and improved public security, as well as 7.7 per cent annual growth. The Royal Government of Cambodia had adopted the Cambodian Millennium

Development Goals, a national poverty reduction strategy, a socioeconomic development plan, a strategy for growth, employment, equity and efficiency and a national strategic development plan. Jointly with development partners, the Government had taken steps to address poverty and rural development. Priorities included maintaining macroeconomic stability, improving rural livelihoods, expanding job opportunities, improving capabilities, strengthening institutions and improving governance, reducing vulnerability and strengthening social inclusion, promoting gender equity and focusing on population, urbanization and non-farm jobs.

135. Agricultural development was essential to poverty reduction in Cambodia. The Government had taken steps towards land reform, distributing land to landless farmers, expanding irrigation, strengthening institutional mechanisms, providing modern farm inputs and extending credit to farmers. The Government had also taken up food security and nutrition reform, prioritizing those issues and incorporating them into the national strategic development plans. Cambodia had persistently implemented and adhered to its principle of “no one dies of starvation and ignorance.” As a result, Cambodia had achieved several of the Millennium Development Goals, including, most notably, a remarkable decline in the poverty rate, from 53 per cent in 2004 to 16 per cent in 2013. Cambodia had achieved some of the MDG targets, including the one on poverty reduction, and had been held up as an example by the United Nations.

136. Cambodia had launched a strategic development plan for the period 2014-2018, which served as a framework and road map for implementation of the second phase of a strategy for growth, employment, equity and efficiency that laid out the political commitment to a socioeconomic development process, outlining visible and realistic actions, programmes and projects to make the country’s people educated and healthy and in harmony within the family and society.

137. Poverty reduction in Cambodia depended on achievement of significant, steady progress in several socioeconomic spheres, such as robust and equitable macroeconomic growth, strong checks on inflation, significant increases in agricultural production and productivity, protection and enhancement of the environment, strengthened and improved infrastructure, employment and income creation, public administration

and judiciary reforms and rapid growth in the service sector, including tourism. Cambodia was now in transition towards lower-middle-income status, which it hoped to attain by 2016. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals were highly relevant to Cambodia in the context of its ultimate goal of achieving upper-middle-income status by 2030.

138. Poverty eradication required the engagement and partnership of all stakeholders, including individuals, communities, civil society and government agencies, as well as partnerships with developed countries, which were urged to fulfil their ODA commitment of 0.7 per cent of GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI to least developed countries.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.