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Chair: Mr. Logar (Slovenia)

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

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development ([A/69/737](#) and [A/69/737/Add.1](#))

- (a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system** ([A/70/62-E/2015/4](#))
- (b) South-South cooperation for development** ([A/70/344](#))

1. **Mr. Hanif** (Director, Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General regarding implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system ([A/70/62-E/2015/4](#)), said that, in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5, the full analysis of funding for United Nations operational activities for development had been merged into the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review for the first time.

2. Turning to some key funding trends, he said that funding for operational activities for development across 34 United Nations entities in 2013 had amounted to \$26.4 billion, which represented an increase of 10.6 per cent in real terms over the previous year, some 17 per cent of total global Official Development Assistance (ODA), and accounted for approximately 63 per cent of the funding for United Nations system-wide activities in 2013. Only 25 per cent of overall funding for operational activities for development had been in the form of unrestricted core resources, and the rapidly declining core funding ratio continued to pose serious challenges.

3. While contributions for United Nations operational activities for development had nearly doubled in real terms over the previous 15 years, non-core resources, which had accounted for three quarters of the funding for operational activities for development in 2013, had been responsible for almost all of that growth. Much of non-core funding for development-related activities was single-donor and programme- and project-specific. The flexibility and predictability of non-core resources constituted an increasing concern and posed challenges in terms of system-wide coherence, by potentially increasing fragmentation, transaction costs and overlap. Moreover, fluctuations in funding from individual sources also

had implications in terms of the planning and delivery of assistance. With the integration requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there was a need to promote upstream pooling of resources.

4. While contributions from developing countries had increased by some 51 per cent in nominal terms since 2006, and funding from multilateral organizations, non-governmental and private sources had increase steadily over the previous five years, the United Nations development system continued to rely heavily on a few donors. Further efforts to broaden the donor base, including in the context of structured dialogues with governing bodies on how to finance the development results agreed in the new strategic planning cycle, would help to mitigate the negative impact of large fluctuations in donor contributions.

5. Turning to expenditure, he said that two thirds of the \$25.8 billion for United Nations operational activities had been spent on development activities, and the remaining third on humanitarian assistance. The least developed countries had received 57 per cent of country-level development-related expenditure.

6. Preliminary information for 2014 showed that, while overall global ODA had remained stable, total contributions for United Nations operational activities for development were estimated to exceed \$28 billion. That 7 per cent increase in real terms was attributed entirely to a rise in non-core funding, primarily for humanitarian assistance in connection with the Ebola crisis and humanitarian emergencies in Iraq and Syria. Further information would be made available by the end of the year.

7. The Secretariat, which was working closely with other United Nations entities in generating and analysing the financial data, was committed to improving the quality of reporting on funding flows for United Nations operational activities for development.

8. **Mr. Chediek** (Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation ([A/70/344](#)), said that the report shed light on the current context within which South-South cooperation was occurring and on how the United Nations was responding to the increasing demands from developing countries for support in leveraging and capitalizing on the opportunities from South-South interaction. While South-South trade had stagnated since 2011, South-South foreign direct investment was

showing an upward trend, and countries of the South were creating more institutionalized forms of South-South cooperation, such as the \$100 billion New Development Bank, launched in July 2015, which presented new opportunities for financing sustainable development.

9. The report outlined the ways in which the United Nations continued to provide support for South-South and triangular cooperation, and noted that many entities had taken further steps to implement policies and strategies to advance such cooperation. It also set out a number of recommendations, including the appointment of national focal points, in response to the requests of Member States for improved coordination and a new blueprint for South-South cooperation suited to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

10. Drawing attention to the importance of institutional links, he said that the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team had been established within the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to catalyse inter-agency collaborative initiatives. In partnership with other organizations, the Task Team would be publishing a set of good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation applicable to the implementation of each of the Sustainable Development Goals. It would also assist in integrating South-South and triangular cooperation approaches into the guidance notes for country teams. He trusted that more UNDG members would join the Task Team.

11. Lastly, he said that he would be undertaking a comprehensive review of the business practices and operation of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and thanked the Government of Nigeria for offering sponsorship to help meet staffing needs. He would also be seeking the views of Member States on their priorities and expectations, and on how to ensure that the Office was fit for purpose.

12. **Mr. Gopinathan** (Joint Inspection Unit), introducing the report on an analysis of the resource mobilization function within the United Nations system on behalf of the Joint Inspection Unit ([A/69/737](#)), said that almost all organizations of the United Nations system, with the exception of five, already had in place resource mobilization strategies, policies and procedures, thereby facilitating better planning, allocation and utilization of resources. The report contained five formal recommendations (two addressed to the legislative bodies of the United Nations system organizations and three to their executive heads). It also made a number of informal

recommendations, and highlighted lessons learned and good practices.

13. Outlining the formal recommendations made, he said that the legislative bodies should periodically review their resource mobilization strategies and policies, including by providing political guidance and oversight, and by ensuring monitoring and the review of regular updates. They should also request Member States, when providing specified contributions, to make them predictable, long-term and in line with the core mandate and priority of the organizations. Executive heads should put in place clearly identifiable structures and arrangements for the systematic implementation of their strategies and policies. Furthermore, they should put in place risk management and due diligence processes for resource mobilization, including ensuring that due diligence was not performed by the same individuals responsible for fundraising. Executive heads should organize dialogues with respective donors to agree on common reporting requirements, which would simplify the reporting process for the organizations in question and satisfy the information needs of donors, with a view to reducing the reporting burden and associated costs.

14. **Mr. Herman** (Senior Advisor on Information Management and Policy Coordination, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the note containing the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit ([A/69/737/Add.1](#)), said that organizations of the United Nations system had welcomed the informative report and had concurred with its relevant and useful findings. In particular, they had agreed that core resources formed the bedrock of their institutions, allowing them to function strategically and transparently, although they were increasingly reliant on voluntary contributions that offered an avenue for innovation. While generally welcoming the recommendations, several organizations had maintained some reservations. For example, voluntary contributions frequently came with additional reporting requirements, which almost always increased transaction costs. Organizations had therefore supported the use of common reporting formats, which addressed that challenge.

15. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) asked how it would be possible to reconcile the broadening of the funding

base, which would bring about additional reporting requirements, with the need to reduce transaction costs.

16. **Mr. Gopinathan** (Joint Inspection Unit) said that widening the donor base had been a legislative priority for the United Nations for several years. In order to avoid an increase in the reporting burden and transaction costs, the Joint Inspection Unit was advocating a dialogue between donors and United Nations system entities to develop a common reporting format and requirements.

17. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, called for stronger coordination and enhanced exchange of experience among United Nations entities undertaking operational activities, based on agreed strategic plans, in order to ensure that the United Nations development system provided greater support for national efforts in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Governments should be fully involved in monitoring and evaluation processes relating to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and the role of resident and humanitarian coordinators should be strengthened following the leadership of Governments.

18. The Group of 77 and China trusted that the recommendations made in the next phase of the dialogue on the longer term positioning of the United Nations development system would help to make the subsequent comprehensive policy review more effective and efficient in assisting programme countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms. United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, which must incorporate the 2030 Agenda, should, as a matter of urgency, provide Member States with a comprehensive update outlining concrete steps taken to eradicate poverty since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Poverty eradication could not be achieved without sustainable economic transformation, and the Group of 77 and China was pleased that the importance of economic and social transformation had been adequately reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. Adequate, stable, predictable and untied funding was essential for achieving the internationally agreed development goals. The imbalance between core and non-core resources remained a matter of concern and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

19. South-South cooperation and its agenda must be set by the countries of the South and continued to be guided by such principles as respect for national sovereignty, equality, non-conditionality and mutual benefits. Such cooperation was not a substitute for North-South cooperation, which remained at the core of the global partnership for development. Having recalled the mandate to strengthen South-South cooperation, the Group requested further information regarding the recommendations in document [A/70/344](#) on the system-wide mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in order to maximize its development impact.

20. The Group cautioned against a one-size-fits-all approach, since programming must be relevant to local conditions and realities. It called for the further strengthening of the Office for South-South Cooperation through human, financial and budgetary resources, prior to a decision on separating the Office from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and sought more information on the rationale for the Secretary General's preference for strengthening the Office under the auspices of the UNDP.

21. **Ms. Strasser-King** (Sierra Leone), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that Africa's progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had been uneven, and serious challenges remained in a number of areas. While United Nations funds, programmes and agencies should incorporate the post-2015 development agenda at the earliest possible opportunity, implementation should, in no way, distract from the collective objective of fulfilling the unfinished business of the MDGs. Continued solidarity within the context of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation was indispensable for the comprehensive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations should take into account Africa's development needs and priorities outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063.

22. Poverty eradication, which had been recognized as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and as an issue of the highest priority for organizations of the United Nations development system, could not be attained without meaningful economic transformation, industrialization and infrastructure. The African Group was pleased that such issues had been addressed in the post-2015 development agenda, and called on United Nations

funds, programmes and agencies to provide a comprehensive update of concrete measures taken in the area of poverty eradication during the current session of the General Assembly.

23. The imbalance between core and non-core resources, which increased fragmentation and undermined the ability of the United Nations system to fulfil its mandate effectively, remained a matter of concern and must be addressed. The African Group reaffirmed the importance of two pilot independent system-wide evaluations conducted in 2014 concerning UNDAF and the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthening national capacities for statistical analysis and data collection. It looked forward to the provision of further information during informal consultations and took note of the Secretariat's explanations on the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources.

24. South-South and triangular cooperation constituted an effective means to enhance the capacity of developing countries in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Group was pleased that the work of United Nations organizations to develop thematic strategies for the implementation of South-South cooperation had been recognized in the Secretary-General's report (A/70/344, para. 76) as a positive development. The United Nations should, increasingly, leverage South-South and triangular cooperation to bolster international collective action in addressing a range of diverse issues.

25. **Mr. Blair** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that there had been minimal improvement in the adequacy and predictability of funding for operational activities for development. The resulting limitations in achieving sustainable development were exacerbated by challenges, in particular the slow recovery of the world economy. Of particular concern was the significant and growing imbalance between core and non-core funding, which weakened the multilateral framework for development and had been fashioned to suit donor countries at the expense of recipient countries. Despite the rationale for greater funding from non-core resources, such funding was unpredictable and increased operational costs and fragmentation. It was important to establish an equitable balance to ensure that development assistance was reactive to national policies, in line with

national development priorities and free from conditionalities. The provision of sufficient and predictable resources would help to ensure the quality, quantity and predictability of United Nations development assistance. Poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development should be the guiding principles for operational activities for development

26. CARICOM remained concerned that ODA had not met the targets to which developed partners had committed themselves. Without considerable increases, the basic goals of recipient countries would be jeopardized, particularly with the establishment of the post-2015 transformative agenda.

27. CARICOM remained optimistic that progress would be made in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, particularly in connection with a critical mass of resources, which would address the imbalances between core and non-core resources and give the Economic and Social Council a strengthened role in the coordination of funds and programmes.

28. Lastly, he stressed that South-South cooperation must be integrated into the operational activities of the United Nations system and should be considered as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

29. **Ms. Nguyen** Phuong Nga (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), underscored the primary importance of United Nations operational activities for development. The strengthening of development cooperation was instrumental in consolidating the mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations work, and ASEAN looked forward to exploring all possible cooperation with the United Nations, especially in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level.

30. The growing imbalance between core and non-core resources posed difficulties. ASEAN called on donor countries to honour their financial commitments for operational activities, particularly through the provision of core resources that were essential for ensuring the independence and neutrality of the United Nations system. More must be done to expedite the achievement of a critical mass of core resources and adequate cost recovery.

31. In order to ensure synergy and coherence, the priorities of the United Nations development system should be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, and particular attention should be given to capacity-building, notably in the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries. ASEAN strongly supported actions to strengthen system-wide coherence at all levels and welcomed the adoption of the UNGD standard operating procedures for countries wishing to adopt the “Delivering as one” approach. While welcoming the progress made on joint approaches to procurement and to the establishment of basic common services at the country level, further progress was required to address the challenges of simplifying and harmonizing business practices. The specific characteristics and requirements of each particular country must be accommodated, bearing in mind the principle of “no one size fits all”.

32. South-South and triangular cooperation continued to play an important complementary role in the global partnership for development. South-South cooperation, which provided developing countries with more policy space, should not to be regarded as a substitute for North-South cooperation. Total contributions from developing countries for operational activities for development accounted for only 5 per cent of overall funding, and ASEAN therefore reaffirmed the need for developed countries to meet their ODA commitments. ASEAN also called on the United Nations and other development partners to support its efforts to implement the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and to launch the ASEAN Community.

33. **Ms. Faizunnesa** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, expressed concern at the stagnation in the allocation of core resources for the financing of operational activities for development, particularly as the lack of flexibility related to non-core resources could hamper development efforts at the global and country levels. Development partners should contribute more to the target for resource assignments from the core in order to ensure the universal implementation of United Nations development activities. The least developed countries deserved the highest priority in terms of development assistance, and development partners should ensure that the resources required to enable the United Nations system to contribute meaningfully towards graduation were provided in a stable,

predictable and incremental manner. The least developed countries remained committed to ensuring that the activities of the United Nations development system were tailored towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and towards eradicating poverty once and for all.

34. South-South cooperation, which could play an important role in the efforts of developing countries to attain the new Goals and targets, must not be viewed as a substitute for North-South cooperation. Noting the consensus outcome reached by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its intersessional meeting the previous month, she said that all Member States should work together to ensure that South-South cooperation was effective in assisting developing countries through the sharing of experience, best practice and technology transfer.

35. **Mr. Shcherbakov** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that continued efforts should be made to ensure that operational activities were carried out under the leadership of programme countries and in accordance with their national development priorities. Those activities should focus on the development mandate of the organization concerned, with poverty eradication the overarching priority. Progress must be made on critical issues, such as the concept of a critical mass of resources, addressing the imbalance between core and non-core resources, and making non-core resources more flexible.

36. While developing countries had been encouraged to step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation, such cooperation must not be used as an excuse for traditional donors failing to fulfil their longstanding commitments or viewed as a substitute for other forms of development cooperation. CELAC reaffirmed the need for increased support for South-South and triangular cooperation, including through the strengthening of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, for adjustments to the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation, and for the promotion of technology transfer.

37. CELAC called for a comprehensive action plan for cooperation with middle-income countries, since the prioritization of certain dimensions of development distorted the real situation of those countries. It also

encouraged more effective participation of developing countries in the governance of the United Nations development system, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation; enhanced exchange of experience among United Nations entities; and active and full participation of national Governments in UNDAF-related monitoring and evaluation activities.

38. Lastly, highlighting the importance of linkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance, capacity and impact of the United Nations development system, CELAC considered that the resolution on operational activities for development should facilitate the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2016 by providing detailed and objective information regarding aspects for improvement within the United Nations development system.

39. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that United Nations operational activities for development should be strengthened to deliver effective, efficient and coherent assistance in the areas of poverty reduction, economic growth and sustainable development, in particular to small island developing States. The growing imbalance between core and non-core funding remained a concern, as donors shifted towards non-core contributions, which were less predictable and flexible than core resources. AOSIS underscored the importance of programme-based approaches and the use of country systems for activities managed by the private sector, and noted that the provision of regular and timely information on planned support to developing countries would help to make development more effective and predictable.

40. Small island developing States received only 5.7 per cent of total ODA, and unless their specific financing and development challenges and structural vulnerabilities were addressed, those States would be left behind. All stakeholders were therefore invited to build specific, genuine and durable partnerships with small island developing States. South-South cooperation was an important partnership for development and should, along with triangular cooperation, be integrated in the policies and strategic framework of operational activities for development. Such cooperation must not, however, be considered as a substitute for North-South cooperation.

41. Small island developing States welcomed efforts to ensure that development was addressed in a coherent manner and trusted that, as called for in the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), the United Nations system would incorporate their priorities and activities into its strategic and programmatic frameworks.

42. **Mr. Poulsen** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, welcomed the Secretary-General's conclusion that the single comprehensive monitoring and reporting framework was proving an effective tool for monitoring progress made in implementing the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. All entities in the United Nations development system should align themselves with that review to ensure the coordination necessary for the achievement of effective, efficient and coherent development results, building on the system's unique comparative advantage.

43. The European Union and its member States welcomed a transparent and inclusive dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the transformative 2030 Agenda, to ensure that the United Nations was fit for purpose. Overlapping and competition between United Nations entities must be avoided and the coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council should be strengthened. The central function of the United Nations development system in conflict-affected and fragile States should be reflected, and its normative role should be strengthened. The "Delivering as one" approach should be further enhanced, including by streamlining programming, funding, reporting and accountability mechanisms and by implementing key reforms at country and Headquarters levels. The European Union and its member States urged all funds, programmes and specialized agencies to implement the cost-sharing arrangement in support of the resident coordinator system, and the standard operating procedures, without further delay.

44. Although financial flows to the United Nations development system had increased substantially over the previous 15 years, there was a continued reliance on a relatively small group of donors for core funding.

Moreover, the increasing share of highly-earmarked, non-core resources remained a challenge. Efforts should be made to broaden the donor base, improve the predictability and flexibility of funding, and to prioritize non-core resources that were less earmarked. The principles confirmed at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness should guide funding practices. All implementing funds and programmes should make increased use of national systems for monitoring and reporting, procurement and evaluation, and the United Nations system should ensure robust results frameworks and results-based management systems.

45. The European Union and its member States called for the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which was of fundamental importance for the achievement of sustainable development.

46. **Mr. O'Sullivan** (Australia) said that he was speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, countries that were generous and consistent donors to the United Nations development system through the provision of core and non-core resources. The need to ensure relevant, efficient and effective results for sustainable development was an overarching priority with respect to operational activities. To that end, there were a number of areas to be addressed in the run up to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2016.

47. While encouraging progress had been made as a result of ambitious reforms at United Nations Headquarters and at regional and country levels, including the roll-out of standard operating procedures, there were areas that required further attention, such as adjustments to the country and regional architecture of the United Nations development system, aid delivery systems, harmonization of business practices, and more efficient field presence models. Further refinement of the monitoring and reporting framework was required, as was the establishment of a culture of accountability and results-based management, with a view to promoting system-wide coherence for policy guidance and operational effectiveness. More consistent efforts should be made to mobilize quality contributions from a wider range of Member States, notably emerging economies.

48. Noting the crucial role of the United Nations in bridging the gaps between humanitarian, peace and

development activities, he said that the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations offered direction to the United Nations development system. Gender equality, which was a prerequisite for the achievement of sustainable development, must remain a top priority.

49. All partners were urged to favour a straightforward process for negotiating the resolution on operational activities. In so doing, they should not only focus on strategic directions for the United Nations development system, but also recognize the 2030 Agenda as the framework for future development activities and the Economic and Social Council dialogues as a solid basis for building consensus on functions, funding, governance and impact.

50. **Ms. Voronovich** (Belarus) said that her delegation supported the focus of the operational funds on attaining concrete results in the provision of development assistance to Member States, taking into account the recommendations of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and noted with satisfaction the increasing support afforded to development processes by organizations and agencies of the United Nations system over the past decade. It welcomed the adoption of the country programme document for Belarus 2016-2020, and also the new country programmes of UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund. Her Government would continue to cooperate with all partners in carrying out those programmes and hoped that the country offices would actively mobilize and effectively use the resources of the programmes. Her Government also wished to note the role of the Russian Federation and of the European Union as partners and donors which were funding a number of technical assistance projects in Belarus.

51. Her delegation was concerned about the continuing decline in the proportion of core resources, which had an adverse impact on the effectiveness of assistance to recipient countries and its fair distribution. Non-core resources could not replace core resources as they were neither predictable nor reliable as a source of support for development processes. That question should be actively addressed by UNDG in close cooperation with Member States.

52. It was legitimate that the largest share of resources should go to the low-income countries. At the same time support needed to be provided to middle-income countries, which constituted the majority of Member

States. It was unacceptable to reduce the amount of assistance provided to those countries; her delegation was categorically opposed to attempts by some funds to make those countries cover all the expenses of maintaining country offices and to provide assistance only on condition of reimbursement by the recipient countries. That approach was inconsistent with the spirit of international development assistance.

53. The attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals would be impossible without additional financial resources. Her delegation therefore hoped that developed countries would fully discharge their obligations to provide ODA.

54. **Mr. Velázquez Castillo** (Mexico) said the “Delivering as one” approach, which promoted the standardization of objectives and strategies as well as consistency, could constitute an important tool for strengthening the United Nations development system. Every effort should be made to ensure that operational activities for development were as effective as possible and he highlighted the merit of results-based management in that regard. Coordination between all actors involved in activities of the United Nations development system should continue to be strengthened, and the specific capacities and needs of Member States must be taken into account through a differentiated approach. The United Nations development system must support middle-income countries in combating poverty, and factors other than average per capita income should be taken into account for the allocation of resources within the framework of operational activities.

55. Given the scale of the development challenges, the United Nations development system must generate support from the international community and encourage the involvement of non-traditional actors, such as foundations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Other forms of cooperation, such as South-South and triangular cooperation, also needed to be promoted. If South-South cooperation was to attain its full potential, consideration should be given to how such cooperation flows were redefining the architecture of international development cooperation; how South-South cooperation practices could be systematically improved on the basis of the successful experience of countries of the South; and how inclusive associations could be promoted by involving development actors in the planning, implementation

and evaluation of South-South and triangular cooperation.

56. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia) welcoming the Secretary-General’s recommendations set out in the report on the state of South-South Cooperation (A/70/344), noted that Malaysia’s active promotion of South-South cooperation over 35 years through its technical cooperation programme had benefited some 29,000 participants from 141 countries. South-South cooperation was a vital element of international cooperation for development and an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance. While primary responsibility for its implementation rested with developing countries themselves, the international community also needed to support the efforts of developing countries to expand such cooperation.

57. Malaysia, which also welcomed the increase in triangular cooperation as a means of assisting the efforts of more advanced developing countries, valued the opportunities to provide technical assistance. South-South cooperation should not be regarded as a substitute for traditional cooperation with developed country partners, and those countries should continue to cooperate substantively with developing countries.

58. **Ms. Liew Li Lin** (Singapore) said that an integrated approach that engaged multiple sources and stakeholders must be taken to ensure the intensified international cooperation necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda. While ODA would remain a key pillar of development financing, it was not sufficient in itself, in particular given the challenges facing the least developed countries and small island developing States. Singapore welcomed the strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation, but emphasized that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for public funding from developed countries.

59. Singapore’s development experience, including through the Singapore Cooperation Programme and its Third Country Training Programmes, had shown that technical assistance was equally as effective as financial aid alone, if not more so, in creating the correct conditions for growth. Her country, which had trained over 100,000 participants from 171 countries, had unveiled a series of new initiatives over the previous year to step up technical cooperation efforts, including a three-year technical cooperation package for fellow small island developing States and a partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster

Risk Reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It would also be working with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to help build capacity in urban governance and planning and promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The key principles critical for sustainable development were honest and competent Government, the rule of law and a pragmatic economic and social policy.

60. **Ms. Thaw** (Myanmar) said that, with a growing need for development assistance and dwindling resources, efforts must be made to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of United Nations operational activities, which should promote national ownership and be in line with national priorities. The stagnation in funding for such activities was a concern, as was the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources. Myanmar therefore urged donor countries and development partners to honour their financial commitments for operational activities, particularly through the provision of core resources. South-South and triangular cooperation could boost national development efforts in various fields. However, South-South cooperation must not be considered a substitute for North-South cooperation, which played a central role in the global partnership for development.

61. Myanmar was grateful for the assistance it had received under its current UNDP country programme, which was the first such programme to have been adopted for two decades and aimed to support the attainment of national development priorities, particularly in terms of poverty reduction, democratic transformation and human rights. Her country called on international development partners to increase funding for United Nations operational activities to help least developed countries affected by natural disasters, and trusted that its new country programme, which should be adopted as soon as possible, would take into account the need for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood-hit areas.

62. Lastly, she thanked UNDP for hosting a Social Good Summit in Myanmar on 26 September 2015 to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals among young people.

63. **Ms. Medvedeva** (Russian Federation) said that in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations

development system needed to afford consistent and comprehensive support to Member States in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, its policies and working methods must be further improved.

64. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that most organizations of the United Nations system, without awaiting the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, had started work on possible modalities so as to be able to make timely proposals for its integration into existing strategic plans. At the same time, a cautious approach should be taken to the existing system, which had done much to ensure progress in the achievement of the MDGs; in particular, a balance should be maintained between development assistance and capacity-building activities in the areas of development planning, data collection and analysis, reporting, monitoring and appraisal. An excessive emphasis on consulting and monitoring activities could adversely impact the timeliness of operational activities and make them less attractive to recipient States.

65. The discussion on the critical mass of core resources, enhancing their quality and predictability, ensuring full reimbursement of expenditure and a single budgetary mechanism at the country level must continue. In that regard, the findings of the pilot initiatives conducted by various organizations of the United Nations development system were of interest.

66. Her delegation reiterated its position on the need to continue to accord priority to the least developed countries. However, it would be rash to ignore the fact that the majority of people living below the poverty line were concentrated in middle-income countries. The automatic conversion of those countries to self-financing could undermine the progress made in their development. South-South cooperation and trilateral cooperation needed additional coordinating support from the United Nations system; at the same time, the concrete modalities should be subjected to careful analysis.

67. **Mr. Pinto Damiani** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular to eradicate poverty, efforts must be made to strengthen coherence within the United Nations system, avoiding fragmentation and overlapping in operational activities. His country attached great importance to South-South cooperation, which was complementary to North-South

cooperation, and noted the flows of cooperation that continued to be established under regional integration schemes, such as the Southern Common Market, the “Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People’s Trade Treaty”, CELAC and CARICOM. He drew particular attention to the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement, an instrument developed by his country that had contributed to the strengthening of South-South cooperation and had helped to finance social projects and programmes of benefit to some 2.5 million people.

68. His country, which believed that United Nations entities should consider the best practices of South-South cooperation in their operational programmes and policies, was concerned that an attempt might be made to use such cooperation to finance the 2030 Agenda in a way that restricted its capacity for action specifically to areas agreed by the United Nations and thus discouraged new initiatives.

69. Lastly, noting that South-South cooperation should not be considered as a substitute for, or a complement to, ODA, he emphasized the importance of honouring ODA commitments for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

70. **Ms. Richards** (Jamaica) said that her country welcomed the specific measures taken by the United Nations development system to improve support for South-South cooperation, and commended the practical steps taken by United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in a number of areas to enhance the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in their programme activities. Given the particularities of developing countries, especially small island developing States, she said that a one-size-fits-all approach must be avoided, and that the agenda for South-South cooperation must be set by the countries of the South. Such cooperation could not be a substitute for North-South cooperation and it remained essential for development partners to honour their ODA commitments.

71. Recalling target 17.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals on enhancing North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation in science, technology and innovation, and target 17.9 thereof on enhancing international support for capacity-building through such cooperation, she highlighted the importance of a coherent and

complementary approach for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

72. Lastly, Jamaica trusted that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which it welcomed, would be adequately financed.

73. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Ukraine) said that Ukraine, which held the Vice-Presidency of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, commended the valuable contributions of Member States, the Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP at the intersessional meeting of the High-level Committee in September. Recalling that the ambitious 2030 Agenda recognized the importance of South-South Cooperation, he said that the United Nations development system should continue improving coordination among its agencies to enhance support to South-South and triangular cooperation. UNDP country offices, in particular in Europe and Central Asia, should develop a knowledge network, partnerships and technical and research capacity in support of enhanced subregional, regional and interregional cooperation with countries of the global South. The meetings of the regional coordination mechanism could be used as a tool in that regard.

74. Ukraine, which welcomed continued efforts to reduce the number and length of draft resolutions, supported focused, action-oriented texts that would enhance the quality of work, including on the South-South process.

75. **Ms. Yaima de Armas** (Cuba) said that the objective of eradicating poverty once and for all should be the highest priority of the United Nations system. To that end, United Nations operational activities for development must be universal, voluntary, impartial and multilateral, consistent with national development priorities and legislation, and provided at the request of the recipient country. The decline in core resources for such activities was a concern, as were attempts to equate such resources with extrabudgetary contributions.

76. Per capita income alone was not an accurate indicator of poverty in all its dimensions or of development, particularly in middle-income countries. Consolidating development gains in those countries was essential for greater global stability and for stronger South-South and triangular cooperation. Although such cooperation was yielding valuable development benefits, it could never be a substitute for North-South cooperation, particularly in the areas of

capacity-building and technology transfer. The United Nations system must be involved in the development of all such forms of cooperation. Lastly, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be respected, and genuine political will must be demonstrated if the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals were to be achieved.

77. **Ms. Quiel Murcia** (Panama) said that, with the slowdown in demand for goods and services, the global context for South-South cooperation was changing. The United Nations development system must support such cooperation, including through policy development, dialogue, research, capacity-building, innovative financing, and monitoring and evaluation. South-South cooperation must be complementary to North-South cooperation, and financial and technical support from traditional donors would remain essential in supporting the development efforts of developing countries. United Nations operational activities for development must be as effective as possible, and priority should be given to harmonizing institutional practices in countries in order to reduce duplication and administrative and transaction costs.

78. Panama was seeking to participate more actively in the multilateral agenda, and had recently established the Vice Ministry of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation that would coordinate and increase international cooperation involving Panama through projects related to the social agenda. Her country had proposed the establishment of a regional hub housing 16 United Nations agencies with a view to strengthening the operations and integration of the regional offices. It had also suggested the establishment of a humanitarian hub to meet humanitarian assistance needs in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as an emergency response training centre. Both hubs would help to build capacity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and provided a unique opportunity to strengthen mechanisms for South-South cooperation.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.