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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the fifth meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 8 October 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Cardi. . . . . (Italy)

*later:* Mr. Izararen (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Morocco)

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General debate (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Mwinyi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country was satisfied with the milestones achieved in preparing for the post-2015 development agenda, including the work of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals. The eagerly awaited synthesis report of the Secretary-General would also prove useful in that regard. In the meantime progress needed to be accelerated in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Climate change remained one of the greatest challenges currently facing the planet. The momentum created by the Climate Summit held in September 2014 needed to be sustained through the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled to be held in Lima in December 2014 and the twenty-first session scheduled to be held in Paris in December 2015, with a view to producing a multilateral, legally binding and rules-based climate regime under which developed countries took the lead in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

3. His delegation supported the Open Working Group's proposal for a stand-alone goal of ending hunger, ensuring food security and nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture. Important work was being undertaken in Africa under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which had been reinvigorated through the Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014. In his country, several strategies and programmes had been introduced to transform the agricultural sector through mechanized farming, job creation, and access to financial services.

4. He welcomed the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States that had produced the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and looked forward to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries scheduled to be held in Vienna in November

2014. He also called for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action). New partnerships should complement, rather than replace, existing North-South and South-South cooperation and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies was critical to sustainable development. He called for agreement on a technology facilitation mechanism during the current session and urged all delegations to ensure that the upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in 2015 was successful.

5. **Mr. Suan** (Myanmar) said that the unfinished business of the MDGs should be integrated properly into the post-2015 development agenda. His country welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the sustainable development goals proposed by the Open Working Group. Financial and technological support should be mobilized to ensure the success of the post-2015 development agenda, which should continue to make poverty eradication its central overarching objective. He wished to echo the position of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in working for a new climate regime within the framework of the Climate Convention. Fulfilment by the developed countries of their official development assistance (ODA) commitments was crucial to meeting the deadlines of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

6. His country's framework for economic and social reform was based on all round development, balance among states and regions, inclusive growth, and quality statistical information. A nationwide population and housing census had recently been conducted for the first time in 30 years, and a plan to promote tourism while protecting the country's natural, environmental and cultural heritage had been drawn up. In 2014, Myanmar had become a candidate for membership in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. It had also reformed and liberalized its institutional and regulatory framework to facilitate business, trade and investment. Two foreign companies were now providing mobile phone service, and nine foreign banks had recently been granted approval to provide financial services in Myanmar. It had begun the process of integrating its foreign investment law with

its citizens' investment law in order to create an equitable investment climate, and had enacted a revised special economic zones law in 2014. In the wake of all those reforms and the lifting of economic sanctions, ODA flows had begun to increase. His delegation was grateful to international creditors for cancelling nearly half of Myanmar's total debt. Exports and foreign direct investment were now on the rise and the upward trend in gross domestic product had prompted steps to graduate Myanmar from least developed country status.

7. **Ms. Stone** (Australia) said that sustainable development depended on quality education for children, access to decent health care, and access to basic infrastructure services such as power and water. Innovative solutions should include new partnerships, especially with the private sector. Gender equality was also essential, and prosperity went hand-in-hand with peace and the rule of law. As a country in a region that included many small island developing States, Australia commended the focus on the conservation and management of oceans reflected by the recently adopted Samoa Pathway.

8. It was important not to underestimate the development gains that could be achieved through increased trade and the reduction of trade barriers. As Chair of the Cairns Group, her country would continue to advocate for the participation of developing countries in international agricultural trade, and would also work for the earliest possible conclusion of the Doha Round. As Chair of the Group of 20, Australia was committed to improving tax cooperation, facilitating infrastructure investment and mobilizing financial resources. The MDGs had demonstrated the power of a simple agenda to rally international efforts and the Committee could play a role in designing the post-2015 agenda, while being careful not to duplicate or pre-empt upcoming deliberations.

9. **Mr. Oh Joon** (Republic of Korea), welcoming the adoption of the 17 sustainable development goals proposed by the Open Working Group, said that his delegation wished to stress the need for a holistic and integrated approach that took into consideration the sustainability of the planet. He called for agreement on a new climate regime in time for the Paris Climate Change conference scheduled for the end of 2015. He also welcomed the adoption of the Samoa Pathway for small island developing States.

10. He expressed support for the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All, Education First and Zero Hunger Challenge initiatives. At the recent 2014 high-level meeting of the Global Education First Initiative, his country had announced that it would contribute US\$ 5 million to the Global Partnership for Education. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 67/290, would serve as a good platform for monitoring delivery by the international community on its pledges. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation could also be a useful tool for maximizing synergies and avoiding duplication. The reformed cycle of the Economic and Social Council would strengthen collaboration between the Council and the Committee.

11. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana) said that the functions of the Committee in the current session should include leveraging its role as a universal forum, crystallizing development policy and practice, and proactive exploration of action-oriented responses to development challenges. The revitalization by the Bureau of the Committee's working methods would serve to enhance those functions.

12. As a small developing country, Guyana had a keen awareness of the need to create means of implementation and an enabling environment for realization of the transformative development agenda. That agenda needed to be flexible enough to address the peculiar needs and vulnerabilities of countries with special circumstances, such as small-island and low-lying coastal developing States. No amount of resilience could make up for the constraints of geography, size and remoteness from international markets, or the threat of sudden reversals due to the impact of climate change, natural disasters and external shocks. For small island developing States, "graduation" from concessionary financial assistance could not be based solely on GDP per capita. He commended recent innovative ideas such as the highly indebted small island developing States initiative. In addition, global inequalities in wealth concentration needed to change in order to prevent the continued transfer of financial resources and skills from developing countries to developed countries. His country was encouraged by the outcomes produced by the Open Working Group and other progress in designing the new agenda.

13. **Mr. Tommo Monthe** (Cameroon) said that the intergovernmental nature of the Open Working Group and its openness to civil society gave it unquestionable legitimacy as the main forum for defining the sustainable development goals to be included in the post-2015 agenda. However, its report needed to be supplemented with accountability indicators and implementation mechanisms, such as those discussed in the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, which should be further elaborated at the Addis Ababa financing for development conference scheduled for 2015. The post-2015 agenda negotiations should also establish a mechanism for technology transfer. The central goal of poverty eradication could not be achieved without an economic transformation of the countries of the South, which required placing the issues of employment, industrialization and economic diversification at the heart of the agenda, and also ensuring preferential access of their products to global markets.

14. His country was resolutely continuing progress towards its goal of becoming an emerging economy by 2035 by laying a solid foundation of infrastructure and modern agriculture. Key indicators continued to be promising and his Government was working to create special economic zones, improve the investment climate and mobilize domestic savings. Employment opportunities for young people continued to be a crucial factor in economic growth and political stability.

15. **Mr. Ntwaggae** (Botswana) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the report of the Open Working Group as the primary basis for integrating the strategic development goals into the post-2015 development agenda and eagerly awaited the Secretary-General's synthesis report that would pave the way for intergovernmental negotiations. Landlocked developing countries suffered from high transport costs and lack of economic diversification and their dependence on agriculture and mineral resources made them particularly vulnerable to desertification and climate change, which ultimately jeopardized food security. Botswana looked forward to the two Climate Change conferences, the Addis Ababa financing for development conference and the second United Nations Conference of the Landlocked Developing Countries scheduled to be held in Vienna in November 2014.

16. **Mr. Ng** (Singapore) said that the report of the Open Working group should be the main basis for integrating the sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's synthesis report and hoped that pragmatic, quantifiable and outcome-based targets would be adopted. In keeping with its own development experience, his country's primary contributions to the work of the Committee would focus on urbanization, water and sanitation. Singapore had participated actively in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and would continue its active engagement on agenda item 20, Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). It would also be working with the relevant United Nations agencies and civil society organizations to commemorate World Toilet Day, which in 2014 would focus on problems faced by women and girls who lacked basic access to sanitation.

17. As Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, his country had played a role in the Samoa Pathway negotiations in New York. Implementation mechanisms would be crucial to the success of the partnerships declared at that Conference. Indeed, his delegation believed that the United Nations Partnerships Facility should be considered as a cross-cutting issue involving both the Second and the Fifth Committees.

18. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) said that economic inequalities were on the rise between countries and between people. Policies that focused on economic growth but ignored inequality would ultimately be self-defeating. Governments, the United Nations system and multilateral development institutions should promote policies that put people at the centre of the development agenda.

19. The report of the Open Working Group should neither be reopened nor reformulated and should serve as the basis of the post-2015 development agenda. Negotiations on that agenda should be inclusive, transparent and supported by adequate implementation mechanisms. There also needed to be a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring that was transparent, orderly and fair to both debtors and creditors, and a facilitation mechanism to promote the

development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies. It had become clear over the preceding decades that private sector-led market approaches alone were not sufficient for realizing the ambitions of the sustainable development goals. He underscored the need for a speedy conclusion to the Doha Round negotiations with a view to an equitable multilateral trading system, and for finalization of a global climate agreement with concrete and binding commitments by the end of 2015.

20. **Ms. Byaje** (Rwanda) said that tackling the root causes of poverty should remain the overarching goal of the post-2015 development agenda. Her country was committed to expediting achievement of the MDGs and addressing remaining gaps and challenges in the post-2015 agenda. Investments were needed in the areas of education, job creation, health, food security, empowering women and youth, access to water and sanitation, and provision of basic economic opportunities. Developed countries should be mindful of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and should provide both technical and financial assistance for the transition to more climate-friendly patterns of consumption. Advantage should be taken of the invaluable asset of human capital, especially the role played by young people and women, in effecting the economic transformation required to end extreme poverty.

21. Peace and security were also essential to enabling people to lead dignified lives. Each State should devise its own strategy for ensuring peace and security and regional and international organizations had a role to play in policy formulation and capacity-building to address the root causes of conflicts. Her country had learned from tragic experience that peace could only prevail with the restoration of social cohesion, the rebuilding of institutions and the restoration of the rule of law, in addition to ensuring the economic self-reliance of the people. Only inclusive and accountable governance could ensure people's well-being and respond to their specific needs. She urged all nations to make a final push towards achieving the MDGs before the 2015 deadline, an effort which would require both international cooperation and domestic mobilization of resources.

22. **Ms. Leiva Roesch** (Guatemala) said that it was important to avoid duplication of efforts as the Committee embarked on its primary tasks, including negotiations for the outcome document of the third

International Conference on Financing for Development and discussion on a second resolution to craft the post-2015 development agenda. With preparations also under way for the Lima Climate Change Conference and the process to draft a new framework for disaster risk reduction, to be held in Geneva, the Committee should ensure that its deliberations converged with intergovernmental discussions and that meetings, both at headquarters and elsewhere, did not overlap.

23. Her delegation welcomed the progress achieved at the previous session of the General Assembly, in particular the first joint declaration of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as well as the adoption of resolution 68/309 on the report of the Open Working Group. Guatemala was pleased that the final report emphasized the eradication of poverty and hunger and that issues previously on the margins of the development agenda, including action to combat climate change and promote inclusive societies, were now global priorities. The clear links between the rule of law and sustainable development made it imperative to strengthen the rule of law in order to create a favourable climate for development. Her delegation also welcomed the adoption of resolution 68/310 on possible arrangements towards a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of climate-friendly technology. Such a mechanism could be a key part of the post-2015 development agenda.

24. Referring to the surge in the number of Central American migrant children at the United States-Mexico border, she said that it required a strategic response that took into account the root causes and offered long-term answers to the crisis. It was important to note, however, that migration contributed to global economic growth.

25. Guatemala was already experiencing the impact of climate change, with a prolonged drought that had affected more than 1.2 million people. Adaptation to climate change should be a central goal of the new climate agreement. Moreover, the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015 should aim to agree a new legally binding instrument.

26. **Mr. Thornberry** (Peru) said that sustainable development was the path to eliminating hunger and fear and described social inclusion as the vehicle to get

there. Access to knowledge was creating huge gaps both between and within countries; the post-2015 agenda should therefore include an efficient mechanism to facilitate access to technology and technology transfer.

27. Latin America, while not the world's poorest region, was the most unequal. Peru had managed to reduce both poverty and inequality thanks to sustained economic growth and the implementation of social inclusion programmes. In just one generation, Peru's rate of poverty had declined from 50 per cent to 20 per cent. To make such progress irreversible, it was vital to ensure a diverse labour market based on equal access to science and technology.

28. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda and wished to stress the role of the United Nations system and the importance of bringing together a spectrum of actors, including international financial institutions, to strengthen global support for sustainable development. Such an alliance should draw on the opportunities identified by the Inter-Governmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and should strengthen existing monitoring and accountability mechanisms at both the national and international levels. The high-level political forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, along with the General Assembly, should also play a part in addressing that need.

29. Finally, he also wished to stress that, while climate change affected everyone, it disproportionately affected the poor. For that reason, Peru had agreed to host the conference of the parties to the Climate Change Conference in December.

30. **Mr. Kydyrov** (Kyrgyzstan) said that Kyrgyzstan was strongly committed to sustainable development and had already integrated its key principles into its national development strategy for 2013-2017. Rights, freedoms and safety were all guaranteed and were a precondition for sustainable economic growth and a decent standard of living.

31. As a predominantly mountainous and landlocked country, Kyrgyzstan was concerned that the post-2015 development agenda should adequately reflect the main outcomes of the Vienna Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries. Landlocked countries not only bore the economic impact of their remoteness from the

sea but were uniquely vulnerable to the impact of climate change, including melting glaciers, land degradation, landslides and floods. Referring to the United Nations Summit on Climate Change, he said that his country strongly supported the adoption in 2015 of an international legally binding instrument that would take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

32. Water scarcity was an additional concern. Based on reliable forecasts, Kyrgyzstan's ice cover would be significantly reduced by 2025, resulting in a drop of as much as 30 per cent in the country's water supply. That was all the more troubling in light of the importance of hydroelectric power and affordable energy for the achievement of the country's long-range development goals. The construction of hydropower stations in Kyrgyzstan would help solve a number of domestic problems but would also contribute to the sustainable development of the whole region.

33. Finally, uranium tailings, many in densely populated and seismically active areas, remained a serious transboundary problem in Central Asia, including in Kyrgyzstan. He urged the international community to intensify its efforts to fully rehabilitate contaminated land within the framework of resolution 68/218 on the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia.

34. **Mr. Nguyen Trac Ba** (Vietnam) said that, while global growth in 2014 was almost twice that of 2013, implementation of the Bali Package was still a concern, especially for developing countries. Meanwhile, climate change and epidemics, including Ebola, along with instability and conflict, threatened to undermine precarious gains. The United Nations was uniquely positioned to shape responses to the current challenges.

35. His delegation welcomed the recent Climate Change Summit as well as the outcomes of the third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa in September and looked forward to the second Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries the following month in Vienna.

36. With only 400 days left to reach the MDGs, Vietnam was on track to achieve them and had learned from their implementation that strong national ownership, broad-based popular participation and global partnership were indispensable for success. His delegation believed the same would hold true for the

post-2015 development agenda. In that context, Vietnam welcomed the outcomes of the Open Working Group, in particular its stronger focus on economic development and on the implementation of the three pillars of sustainable development, which should constitute the foundation for deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda.

37. **Mr. Conte** (Guinea), noting that the task of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly was to formulate the goals for the post-2015 development agenda, stressed the importance of evaluating the achievements of the MDGs, including in primary education, equal access to education for girls and boys, women's empowerment, nutrition, combating HIV/AIDS and maternal and child health after 14 years of implementation.

38. The outstanding work of the previous session had paved the way for an ambitious post-2015 agenda and would act as its foundation on remaining issues, including the creation of decent work, the eradication of poverty, peacebuilding, improved access to basic services and addressing inequality across gender, age and territorial lines.

39. Guinea believed that the eradication of poverty should be the core objective of the new agenda and that the necessary resources and technology should be allocated to ensure that unmet Goals would be attained.

40. Until the sudden and brutal outbreak of Ebola, Guinea had made significant progress in eradicating poverty, reducing its infant mortality rate, combatting malaria and tuberculosis, increasing access to potable water and improving gender equality. The country's international partners had been slow to recognize the threat posed by the virus and when they did, the ensuing panic and fear had led to border closings and restrictions on movement that had already adversely affected the economies of the afflicted countries, with negative consequences for the transportation, financial and tourism sectors. Guinea had already seen a 1.5 per cent drop in its gross domestic product.

41. The Ebola epidemic in West Africa was a matter of life and death for humanity as a whole. His delegation, along with those of Liberia and Sierra Leone, welcomed resolutions 2177 (2014) and 69/3, which called on the international community to act quickly to stop the spread of the disease. Recent measures, including the arrival of humanitarian medical assistance, the deployment of 3,000 United

States soldiers and the Secretary-General's establishment of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response gave reason to hope that the crisis would soon be overcome.

42. Guinea was vulnerable to climate change both because of its 300-kilometre coastline and its northern border with the Sahel, as well as its 50 per cent poverty rate. His country was working simultaneously to adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change.

43. South-South cooperation was a major tenet of his country's domestic policy. The Committee should adopt strategies that took equal account of national and regional interests to ensure that new partnerships with emerging countries did not replace traditional ones but rather enhanced them.

44. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan), after expressing his condolences to the delegations of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone for the loss of thousands of their citizens to Ebola, said that the Committee's primary task during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly would be to formulate the post-2015 development agenda while continuing to push for attainment of the MDGs. Special attention should be paid to off-track Goals and to countries facing special challenges.

45. As both a landlocked and least developed country, Afghanistan faced multiple challenges, including dependence on overseas development assistance to achieve sustainable economic growth. In that regard, he reiterated the need for developed countries to honour their commitments to channel their assistance to the least developed countries. He also commended the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in October 2013, whose insights could contribute to the post-2015 development agenda. His delegation also attached importance to such forthcoming meetings as the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in November, and the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in 2015.

46. The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development should serve as the basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 economic development agenda. The high-level stock-taking event held on 11 and 12 September was also noteworthy in that regard. Deliberations on the new agenda should also be guided by the principles, outcomes and recommendations of Rio+20,

the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Almaty Programme of Action, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In addition, the new agenda should be based on the principle of differential and preferential treatment for least developed countries.

47. Although Afghanistan had launched its Millennium Development Goals half a decade later than other member States and had extended its deadline to 2020, it had aligned its national development strategy with the MDGs and remained committed to attaining them. Some goals had already been met and it was well on track to meeting the other targets. In order to combat terrorism and instability, Afghanistan had added security as a ninth goal.

48. Afghanistan's 2015-2025 transformation decade coincided with the formulation period for the post-2015 development agenda.

49. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), echoing earlier speakers, said that it was important to build on the outcome document of the Rio+20 and the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Financing for Development. He also noted the importance of the third Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held last month in Samoa, which had led to a range of new partnerships.

50. It was critical for the interests and priorities of the small island developing States, as identified in the Samoa Pathway, to be reflected in the post-2015 agenda. In that context, it was vital to ensure adequate development assessment measures, including improved data collection and statistical capabilities, as well as a shift towards renewable energy technologies, in order to unlock the economic development potential of small island developing States.

51. Moreover, sustainable development could not be achieved without addressing the challenges of climate change. Both mitigation and adaptation efforts would be required, along with adequate financing. Jamaica hoped that the recent Climate Change Summit, along with the upcoming Lima Climate Change Conference, would help build momentum towards a global climate change agreement to be concluded in Paris in 2015.

52. In addition, the effects of natural disasters such as hurricanes, to which Jamaica was prone, had been exacerbated by climate change. In view of preparations for the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Senai in March 2015, the Committee's deliberations should signal expectations that the new framework would improve on the provisions of the Hyogo Framework for Action and would support vulnerable countries to build resilience to natural hazards.

53. Similarly, with respect to financing for development, Jamaica urged that preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, should build on the foundation laid in Monterrey and Doha. In that context, debt sustainability would play a crucial role for Jamaica and the other small economies of the Caribbean Community. His delegation therefore looked forward to the Committee's deliberations on sovereign debt restructuring in the context of resolution [A/68/304](#), entitled "Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes."

54. **Mr. Lasso Mendoza** (Ecuador) said that, while resolution [A/68/304](#) marked important progress on establishing a multilateral legal framework for debt restructuring, it was unfortunate that it had not been adopted by consensus. Challenges remained with respect to global monetary and financial regulation, especially implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. It was vital to ensure that monitoring and implementation measures were built into the post-2015 development agenda. Furthermore, as a middle income country, Ecuador considered it important to recognize the different challenges facing countries with diverse national profiles. Beyond mere income-based assessments, the post-2015 agenda should be guided by the principle of social and economic inclusion.

55. His delegation appreciated the General Assembly's support for Ecuador as the host of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016. Ecuador, which was committed to the view that urban development should take place in harmony with nature, believed that it was crucial to continue the struggle for climate justice along with respect for the multilateral system. In light of the limited achievements of the Kyoto Protocol to the



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it was important to establish new commitments to control greenhouse emissions. It was also crucial to reach consensus on the difference between developed and developing nations with respect to the historic responsibility of certain developed countries for the global climate crisis, recognizing their greater responsibility not only for financial commitments, technology transfer and capacity-building in the developing world but also to support strategies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

56. Drawing attention to the rising number of lawsuits brought by multinational corporations against the States and peoples of the global South, he said that such costly disputes, including the Chevron-Texaco case in Ecuador, undermined fiscal resources and challenged the validity and legitimacy of national legal systems. The scale of the problem could even derail the development agendas of the countries of the South, not only in Latin America but also in other regions. Measures were urgently needed to guarantee justice and legal remedy for the abuse of human rights derived from the activities of multinational corporations.

57. Referring to international migration, especially the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, he said that it was important to establish global policies and specific medium- and long-term measures as part of an overall development strategy aimed at poverty reduction. Ecuador believed that there should be a legally binding agreement on migration and development that would protect the human rights of migrants while recognizing their contribution to development regardless of their immigration status.

58. *Mr. Izararen, (Morocco), Vice-Chair, took the chair.*

59. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that the report of the Open Working Group reflected the three pillars of sustainable development and the Rio+20 outcome, and commended ongoing efforts to produce a post-2015 development agenda that was faithful to the spirit of the Millennium Declaration while taking into account new developments. His country was ranked among the high-income developing countries, and provided assistance to less developed countries through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. He stressed the need for international cooperation, with the

involvement of the private sector and civil society, to alleviate poverty and counteract the effects of climate change while responding to the needs of countries in special situations.

60. Multilateral action at both the regional and international levels would be critical to the period of transition between the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. Greater efforts should be made to achieve the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. His delegation looked forward to the Addis Ababa financing for development conference, and commended the role of United Nations peacekeeping efforts around the world.

61. **Ms. Strickland-Simonet** (Samoa) said that her country had recently hosted the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States the primary achievement of which had been the outcome document known as the Samoa Pathway. That document, with a core emphasis on global partnership, would be a blueprint for current and future initiatives in sustainable development that addressed the specific challenges facing small island developing States. Partnerships specific to small island developing States had been launched throughout the Conference, in particular during the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, and would be critical to helping small island developing States manage multiple risks on their path to development. It would be important going forward to establish a robust monitoring system to strengthen accountability with respect to implementation of programmes launched within the new framework. Such priorities should be solidly laminated into the architecture of the post-2015 development agenda.

62. Her delegation welcomed the conclusions of the work of the Open Working Group and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Funding. Samoa hoped that the Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa the following year would take into account the specific needs of small island developing States, among others, in formulating agreed sustainable development goals for 2015 and beyond. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation should reflect the issues specific to such groups, since one size did not fit all. The high-level political forum continued to play a key role in the effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy Initiative, the Samoa Pathway and their collective linkage to the post-2015 agenda.

63. Climate change had political, social and economic implications for peace and security. All countries were affected, but climate change had a disproportionate impact on small island developing countries, which were more vulnerable than many others by virtue of their geography and the economic constraints on their capacity to respond to crises. Her country welcomed the various outcomes of the recent Climate Change Summit and looked forward to the forthcoming Climate Change Convention meeting in Peru, as well as to the 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Samoa supported all efforts to build toward a climate agreement in Paris the following year. For Samoa, a post-2015 development agenda that did not address climate change would be irrelevant.

64. **Mr. Sarufa** (Papua New Guinea), speaking on behalf of the 12 Pacific small island developing States, namely the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and his own country Papua New Guinea, joined by Timor Leste, welcomed the new Samoa Pathway as a clear roadmap for sustainable development with specific relevance for small island developing States.

65. However, with many objectives yet to be achieved, it was important to ensure that the new partnerships established at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States should be accompanied by pledges and implementation measures that guaranteed the financial resources for their success. It was equally important for States to take ownership and strengthen their leadership as part of the Samoa Pathway. His country encouraged similar resolve from its development partners and urged them to align their assistance commitments with the development needs of the small island developing States in order to help close current gaps. Such cooperation could be a blueprint for sustainable development in the post-2015 era. Implementation would remain a fundamental goal, for which practical assistance would be required.

66. **Ms. Beck** (Solomon Islands) welcomed the report of the Open Working Group, noting that its 17 sustainable development goals should not be renegotiated but should instead form the basis for the post-2015 development agenda. Her delegation also noted the inclusive, transparent nature of the working method of the Open Working Group and suggested that

it should be replicated in the deliberations leading to a new development framework for the next 15 years.

67. For sustainable development to take root in any country, especially in least developed landlocked countries and small island developing States, there needed to be preferential treatment that guaranteed access to appropriate technology, investment in infrastructure, the economic and technological empowerment of women, and livelihood security. Like a number of other vulnerable nations, the Solomon Islands had a mixed record with respect to attaining the MDGs. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held the previous month in Samoa, had reaffirmed that, because of their unique vulnerability, that group of countries constituted a special case. The priority areas outlined by the Samoa Pathway should be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda and should be viewed as a highway for partnership cooperation in the small island developing States.

68. Noting that climate change remained the greatest challenge currently facing the world, she suggested that the General Assembly should invite the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to conduct its next round of negotiations in New York, where the majority of delegates were located, which would help accelerate the pace of negotiations. The Climate Change Convention expected to be signed in 2015 should be comprehensive, addressing mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfer and the special needs of small islands developing States and least developed countries. Furthermore, the agreement should be flexible enough to adapt to changing science and should be allocated adequate resources.

69. Finally, she said that there was a very real risk that, among other adverse effects of climate change, temperature rise, in large part due to coral bleaching, would drive many small island households into poverty traps. For that reason, it was vital for the international community to place small island developing States and least developed countries at the heart of international cooperation when formulating the post-2015 development agenda.

70. *Mr. Cardi (Italy) resumed the Chair.*

71. **Mr. Mohamad** (Lebanon), echoing previous speakers, said that the recent Climate Change Summit had highlighted the fact that economic development, including the eradication of poverty, was inextricably

linked to climate change and that it could not be achieved without meeting the challenges of global warming. Furthermore, the pursuit of sustainable development should not be reserved to developed countries but should be viewed in universal terms, as the only development path capable of lifting people out of poverty.

72. In that regard, the three primary challenges to sustainable development should become priorities going forward, namely, good governance; improved access to technology via technology transfer and direct foreign investment; and public awareness of the stakes involved.

73. Like many developing countries, Lebanon faced domestic asymmetries with respect to key development areas, although its constitution provided for even development across all regions at the educational, social and economic levels. It was critical to place citizens at the heart of development, since they were the main drivers of growth. In that regard, youth migration, both from rural to urban areas and, above all, abroad, was a particular concern. High unemployment rates among young people persisted despite his country's high youth literacy rates.

74. The Syrian conflict had also had a devastating impact on his country. The number of refugees had reached 1.3 million, or one quarter of the population.. While Lebanon was grateful for the international humanitarian assistance it had received, the refugee crisis had significantly affected wages, job opportunities, tourism and investment.

75. In addition, damage from the Israeli Air Force's strikes on the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant in 2006 was a continuing concern. Lebanon hoped that the international community would adopt a resolution calling on Israel to provide adequate compensation for the persistent adverse effects on health and the environment.

76. Israeli practices in the Gaza Strip and in the occupied territories, including the blockade of Gaza, had taken a severe toll on human and economic development in the State of Palestine. The vast majority of Palestinians in Gaza were dependent on international humanitarian aid and more than 30 per cent of the workforce was unemployed. That was unacceptable and should be reflected in the post-2015 agenda.

77. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the goal of eradicating extreme poverty was not only important for development, but also a cornerstone of the social commitment of the Catholic Church. Economic and political policy that did not attack the structural causes of extreme poverty and provide every person with a minimum of dignity and freedom from want risked becoming a form of profiteering. When it came to climate change, the world had become a village where the behaviour of one had consequences for others. Through its vast network of schools and social institutions, the Church was committed to promoting a collective response that targeted both extreme want among the poor and the throwaway culture of rich societies. It was important not to place blame on people in poor countries who cut down trees in order to survive when they were actually the most vulnerable to negative effects of climate change caused by high consumption and high carbon emissions in other countries.

78. With the wealth of the world's 67 richest individuals equivalent to that of the bottom half of the world's population, it was clear that economic models that upheld the absolute autonomy of the market were not producing equitable development. Productive employment for all was not only integral to sustainable development, but important to an individual person's dignity and crucial to counteracting the negative effects of international migration. It was also clear that the most serious setbacks to the millennium development goals had occurred in countries ravaged by conflict. Without peace and reconciliation in such countries, the post-2015 sustainable development goals would remain unachievable.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*