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In the absence of Mr. Diallo (Senegal), Ms. Rebedea (Romania), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development ([A/68/79-E/2013/69](#), [A/68/258](#), [A/68/278](#), [A/68/308](#), [A/68/309](#), [A/68/383](#), [A/68/544](#), [A/C.2/68/3](#), [A/C.2/68/5](#))

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- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** *(continued)* ([A/68/310](#), [A/68/321](#) and [A/68/322](#))
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- (j) **The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia** *(continued)* ([A/68/143/Rev.1](#))

1. **Ms. Bajanã** (Nicaragua) said that irresponsible and unsustainable production and consumption models

had led to the current crises. Given that 40 per cent of the Earth's resources had been used up, the current development model must be altered. Although progress had been made in reducing poverty, huge inequalities persisted at the global level, and major challenges remained to be faced, notably by developing and least developed countries. Groups must work together to find a solution, and the developed countries should fulfil their commitment to allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national product to official development assistance (ODA).

2. If the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were to be achieved, the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) had to be implemented in full. Accordingly, she welcomed the recent inaugural meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which had recognized the importance for sustainable development of poverty eradication, the elimination of inequalities and the empowerment of women.

3. In order to achieve sustainable development, global goals should advance the plans and programmes of action of the least developed countries, developed countries should change their unsustainable patterns of consumption and production to ensure food security, natural resources should be protected and used in a sustainable manner, and women should be integrated into development. The United Nations had an important role to play in global financial and economic governance, not only for the achievement of the MDGs, but also for the post-2015 development agenda.

4. Lastly, her Government was implementing a development model that produced measurable and verifiable results and had enabled the country to move rapidly to restore rights that had been violated by successive neoliberal governments.

5. **Mr. Golan** (Israel) said that the achievement of sustainable development was one of the greatest challenges for the international community, with natural resources under increasing pressure and rising global populations. The establishment of the High-level Political forum on Sustainable Development offered a historic opportunity to meet new and emerging sustainable development challenges and

follow up on the commitments made at the Rio+20 Conference.

6. Israel, which was situated in one of the planet's most arid regions, was implementing policies at the cutting edge of technological innovation to promote sustainable development and the efficient use of natural resources. Ninety per cent of Israeli homes were fitted with solar water heaters. By 2015, over 60 per cent of domestic water would be provided by desalinated water with that figure increasing to 100 per cent by 2050. Noting that 80 per cent of agricultural wastewater was reused for irrigation, he said that advanced water technology was central to Israel's sustainable agricultural policies.

7. Sustainable development would be viable only if Governments, civil society and the private sector worked in partnership to ensure that the outcomes of Rio+20 were translated into concrete progress. Efforts to reduce maternal mortality and achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health were critical. The post-2015 sustainable development framework must include a goal encompassing a range of crucial targets related to gender equality and women's empowerment, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality should be mainstreamed across all other goals. With their tremendous potential, young people must be involved in decision-making to ensure the success of sustainable development goals.

8. **Mr. Haque** (India) said that his Government attached priority to the conservation of the Sundarbans UNESCO World Heritage Site, in which the largest mangrove forests in the world were to be found. It was promoting sustainable tourism in the region as a means of raising revenue and promoting employment.

9. Respect for the mandate of the Rio+20 Conference and the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, must underpin global cooperation on sustainable development. Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner was essential. Although it was extremely important to minimize the environmental impact of development, there was a wider need, particularly for developing countries, to ensure that development, in all its dimensions, could be sustained.

10. The post-2015 agenda could not simply address policy prescriptions for developing countries or

reprioritization of domestic spending. It must remain development oriented and bring about a genuine partnership between developed and developing countries to effect change, including by addressing inequity in consumption of global resources and correcting unsustainable consumption patterns in developed countries.

11. Technology had a key role to play in poverty eradication and sustainable development. Greater collaboration in environmentally friendly technologies must be promoted, enabling developing countries to reach higher levels of development without incurring the higher environmental costs of traditional development methods. A balance must be struck between the need to reward innovators and the need to ensure affordable and wide dissemination of technologies for the public good. A technology facilitation mechanism should be made operational as soon as possible.

12. India remained fully committed to achieving an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive outcome to climate change negotiations in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was participating actively in the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, but was concerned at the tendency to imply that the existing climate change regime was not universal or legally binding. The remit of the Ad Hoc Working Group was to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, not to renegotiate that universal and legally binding instrument. The early and meaningful operationalization of the financial and technology mechanisms under that Convention must be a central priority in the run-up to 2015.

13. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that efforts should be intensified to achieve the MDGs and targets yet to be attained, in particular in the least developed countries, while continuing to elaborate a new set of development goals. Achievements in the area of sustainable development — a crucial imperative for the global community — were at risk of being undermined by the devastating impact of climate change. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should build on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and provide political leadership and guidance.

14. Poverty eradication must remain the overarching goal of the development agenda beyond 2015, and Bangladesh attached importance to the efforts of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in developing a set of aspirational, concise, action-oriented and universally applicable goals. A genuine global partnership, founded on strong political will and the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, must be developed in order to implement the post-2015 development agenda, and lessons learned from the MDGs, such as the need for a clear benchmark and indicators, must be taken into account.

15. If the international community was committed to achieving the sustainable development goals, it must deliver on their means of implementation. To that end, consideration must be given to elements including: finance and the need for development partners to deliver on their ODA commitments; trade and the importance of the fulfilment of obligations made during the Doha Round; technology transfer; and support for capacity-building, in particular for the least development countries.

16. There could not be a trade-off between poverty and climate change. As resources for climate change adaptation were new and additional, climate change support should not be conflated with development financing. He called for the conclusion of a legally binding document in that regard as soon as possible, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

17. Lastly, as a country prone to natural disasters, Bangladesh remained committed to disaster risk reduction. Noting that a substantial increase in investment was urgently required to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, he said that Bangladesh looked forward to the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 2015, which would provide input for the development of a successor framework to the Hyogo Framework.

18. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, despite the recognition of the importance of the achievement of sustainable development goals across the entire world, the suffering of peoples in developing countries was increasing. The financial and economic crisis, the food and energy crisis and climate change had caused major problems, as had a lack of real political will to implement sustainable development

goals. The root causes of obstacles to poverty eradication and sustainable development must be addressed. First, the international community must make every effort to end the scourge of occupation, which remained the primary hindrance to the exercise of the legitimate rights of people living under occupation to sustainable development. Second, certain countries and international organizations must halt the imposition of unilateral economic, trade and financial sanctions on developing countries for the purpose of political coercion. And, lastly, the developed countries must meet their historical commitments with regard to the developing countries and provide predictable and adequate financial assistance to enable developing countries to tackle the issue of climate change.

19. For the eighth consecutive year, the Committee was considering the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/68/544) caused by Israel's bombing of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh Electric power plants in 2006. Israel had failed to respect repeated General Assembly resolutions calling on it to assume its responsibility to provide prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic. His Government had made considerable efforts to clean and rehabilitate the contaminated shores with no international assistance, and reserved the right to estimate the cost of repairing the environmental, economic and social damage.

20. During the current session, the Assembly must put pressure on Israel to respect its international commitments and provide adequate and prompt compensation to the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic for an act violating the rights of the Arab peoples. The Committee, for its part, should reject Israel's attempts to disguise its non-compliance by submitting draft resolutions on sustainable development.

21. **Mr. Pederson** (Norway) said that, since the conclusion of the Rio+20 Conference, a number of important milestones had been reached, namely the establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that would serve as a platform for partnerships, the operation of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. However, important challenges remained. In developing a single

set of universal, sustainable development goals for the period beyond 2015, it was important to learn lessons from the MDGs and incorporate areas that had not been addressed, such as sustainable energy for all. Efforts must also be made to establish a common understanding of the meaning of universal, concrete and measurable sustainable development goals integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development.

22. Robust follow-up and accountability mechanisms should be established to promote the implementation of the sustainable development goals. To that end, lessons should be learned from existing models, including the African Peer Review Mechanism, which had recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

23. **Ms. Melnikovich** (Belarus) said that her country had consistently supported the implementation of agreements reached at the Rio+20 Conference and during other important United Nations meetings concerning sustainable development. International cooperation should be intensified to give new impetus to efforts to address global social, economic and environmental issues. All categories and groups of Member States must be involved in the efforts to promote sustainable development; middle-income countries could provide a bridge for the exchange of best practices between the developing and developed world, and play an important role in creating the sustainable world of the future.

24. Energy access, efficiency and environmentally sound technologies were of particular relevance for sustainable development. An integrated United Nations energy agenda could contribute to the elaboration of a long-term solution. Belarus attached particular importance to international cooperation with respect to the environment and climate change. Although her country had done its utmost to establish quantitative commitments to limit and restrict greenhouse gas emissions under the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, such commitments had not entered into force for Belarus during that period for a number of reasons. Furthermore, the decisions taken at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Doha in November 2012 had not met her country's expectations. The Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol contained contradictions concerning the quantitative commitments of a number of States, including Belarus, to reduce their greenhouse gas

emissions under the second commitment period. Her country, which supported the development of a climate regime based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, trusted that those contradictions would be addressed at the forthcoming nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Warsaw Climate Change Conference). Clear rules of procedure for decision-making would build confidence among parties to the Convention and be conducive to further progress in combating climate change. The Warsaw Climate Change Conference should also work on a new climate agreement, including the possible adoption of a road map up to 2015.

25. **Ms. Battungalag** (Mongolia) said that the post-2015 development agenda must address the threat of climate change and environmental degradation and have sustainable development at its core. Her Government, which took seriously its responsibilities to address climate change challenges and threats, had taken a number of steps in that regard, including the implementation of a green development policy, the establishment of a Ministry of Environment and Green Development and the creation of national parks to prevent desertification. Mongolia's first wind farm was in operation and her country's ambition was to set up an Asian network for green development with a view to meeting energy needs through renewable energy sources. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies (A/68/310) would make a significant contribution to the achievement of common goals.

26. Mongolia welcomed the initiative to hold the Climate Summit in 2014, which it hoped would make a significant contribution to addressing the climate change global agenda. Noting the impact of climate change, particularly on water resources, she highlighted the need for integrated water resource management, as reaffirmed at the Rio+20 Conference. She hoped that her country's proposal regarding the establishment of a special United Nations body on water would win wider support.

27. Education and public participation were essential in order to resolve other environmental problems urgently and collectively. The United Nations World Environment Day, which Mongolia had hosted in 2013,

had been an important event at which the public had shown its commitment to building a better future. Sustainable development goals must be global in nature, universally applicable, ambitious and at the centre of a transformational agenda. Effective means of implementation were crucial for Member States, particularly for those with special needs. Mongolia therefore hoped that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, which Mongolia supported, would conclude their work with concrete proposals for the goals themselves and options for effective financing strategies.

28. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should ensure implementation of sustainable development goals in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015. The recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/68/321) should be taken seriously.

29. **Mr. Ejaz** (Pakistan) said that the need for a new global development framework had never been greater, with natural capital depleting and global inequality and poverty mounting. Pakistan welcomed the progress made in implementing "The future we want" agreed at the Rio+20 Conference, including the efforts of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The Group should conclude its work well in advance of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in order to facilitate the establishment of an intergovernmental mechanism to shape the framework beyond 2015.

30. If the new framework was to have a strong foundation, it should avoid excessive focus on any one of the three pillars of sustainable development, clearly and unequivocally promote economic growth, and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. Poverty eradication should be the overarching objective, although the framework should address the interlinked challenges of energy, demography, climate change, food security and water. It should establish mid-term targets for the achievement of the sustainable development goals and encourage positive development in areas of vital importance for the

growth of the developing world, notably climate change and trade.

31. Over the previous two decades, his country had faced numerous economic, political and social challenges that had impeded sustained economic gains. Structural constraints had to be overcome in order to promote economic growth and sustainable development in Pakistan, and the potential of the private sector had yet to be realized. The post-2015 development agenda should promote self-reliance and the exploitation of indigenous resources, overcome the constraints on growth and employment due to the absence of reliable energy services, and ensure a transformation towards stability, good governance and environmental sustainability without compromising economic growth. Pakistan attached importance to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

32. Being highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change, Pakistan trusted that an agreement on the subject would be reached at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, and welcomed the leadership shown by France in steering the ongoing negotiations. Key deliverables forming the basis of an agreement should include: enhanced and time-bound mitigation commitments by all parties, particularly developed countries; reconfiguration of market mechanisms to facilitate the transition to a green economy and a climate-resilient growth pathway; firm political commitments to initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund to ensure that it was operational by June 2014; and pledges to overcome the shortage of funds for adaptation and commitments to the Adaptation Fund.

33. While Pakistan welcomed the tangible developments at the national level brought about by the Hyogo Framework for Action, much remained to be done, including to ensure that disaster risk reduction was integrated effectively into development processes. He called for the establishment of an open, representative and inclusive preparatory process for the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction with a view to ensuring the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the development framework beyond 2015. Noting that the development challenges faced by small island developing States were compounded by climate change, he said that Pakistan would work to ensure that the outcome of the

Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Samoa in 2014 was comprehensive, substantive and could be implemented.

34. **Mr. García Landa** (Mexico) said that there was a need to reflect the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development at the institutional level, pursuant to agreements reached at the Rio +20 Conference. While Mexico welcomed the progress made in mainstreaming sustainable development into the activities of the United Nations, further efforts were required to achieve a multidimensional, holistic and dynamic vision of development.

35. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would help to define the development agenda beyond 2015 and the follow-up process concerning financing for development. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development must preserve its high-level and political nature to promote integration, evaluation and decision-making at the highest political level. The effective functioning of the Forum would facilitate coordination of the mandates, functions and programmes of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council.

36. His country was committed to environmental sustainability and integrated management of natural resources. Noting the importance of action to promote the continuity and coherence of the dialogues on climate change within the framework of the United Nations, he said that there was an urgent need for the international community to agree on highly ambitious, concrete, financially viable and measurable commitments. Mexico would work closely with small island developing States that were highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and looked forward to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in 2014.

37. Lastly, Mexico supported the work on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In defining the modalities for the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in 2015, the General Assembly must emphasize the link between the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the development agenda beyond 2015.

38. **Mr. Grima** (Malta) said that, in order to achieve sustainable development and lift people out of poverty, a forward-looking approach must be taken, and better

benchmarks must be set, without being overly ambitious. As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, Malta continued strongly to support initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly on small and vulnerable island States. The 2015 international climate change agreement must contain a range of legally binding commitments and obligations applicable to all parties, in particular binding emission reduction targets, and focus more intensely on adaptation. The international negotiations must create the correct political momentum and ensure that the milestones achieved at the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were not undermined.

39. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference provided a road map for future work to move towards a greener economy and accelerate poverty eradication. Discussions on that negotiated outcome, which gave States an opportunity to make progress with respect to international and national commitments in the area of sustainable development, should not be reopened.

40. **Ms. Peterson** (Canada) said that the world had changed dramatically since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. The international community now had an opportunity to ensure that the three pillars of sustainable development, as well as the principles of inclusivity, gender equality and the empowerment of women were at the core of a coherent and ambitious development framework beyond 2015.

41. Canada was using its international assistance to create more stable investment climates, increase the sustainability and competitiveness of enterprises, and provide individuals with the skills they needed to participate in economic activities. Noting that even fast-growing economies faced challenges in sustaining growth, she said that the promotion of human rights, the rule of law and good governance, as well as efforts to strengthen health care, education, food security and decent work, would support sustainable progress.

42. Environmental sustainability remained a critical development challenge and was exacerbated by factors such as population growth, resource limitations, sustainable economic growth and increasing climate variability. It must be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

43. Despite their critical role in society, women around the world remained more disadvantaged than men. Gender equality was not only a right, but also a prerequisite for poverty reduction, peace and sustainable development. Canada worked closely with its partners to support the economic empowerment of women and the inclusion of gender inequality in disaster risk reduction activities.

44. **Ms. Abdulkoder** (Iraq) said that her country was particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Approximately 54 per cent of land in Iraq was estimated to be under threat from desertification and sand and dust storms, which sometimes lasted for days and had a detrimental impact on the health of the population and on the economy. The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification had been consulted with a view to consolidating efforts to address an issue that was undermining her country's efforts to achieve the MDGs. Steps already being taken included efforts to expand arable land and limit urban development, projects to stop the deterioration of agricultural land, stabilize sand dunes, build oases and special irrigation systems, and establish animal feeding stations.

45. **Mr. Mikami** (Japan) said that his Government was committed to contributing constructively to the processes set in motion by the Rio+20 Conference, including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. Much remained to be done to ensure that the development agenda beyond 2015 reinforced the international community's commitments not only to poverty eradication but also to sustainable development.

46. Climate change was an issue that affected all countries, irrespective of their development status, and must be tackled. In order to facilitate the adoption in 2015 of a new legal agreement applicable to all parties, the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must take decisive steps setting out a detailed work plan for 2014 as well elements to be included in the new agreement. Japan, for its part, attached importance to mitigation and to an emission reduction target applicable to all parties. Adaptation and means of implementation should also be addressed,

and his country looked forward to the Climate Summit to be held in 2014.

47. Disaster risk reduction was an important element of sustainable development. Japan was keen to share with the international community its experiences, lessons learned and various disaster reduction technologies and would be hosting the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 in Sendai, one of areas hit by the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

48. In elaborating the sustainable development agenda, it was important to involve the most vulnerable countries, including the small island developing States. Japan was a long-standing supporter of those States and had provided \$50,000 to support the preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2014.

49. Drawing attention to other examples of his country's contribution to sustainable development, he said that Japan had recently hosted a Diplomatic Conference for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, at which the Prime Minister had announced Japan's intention to provide a total of \$2 billion over the next three years to help developing countries tackle environmental pollution.

50. **Mr. McLay** (New Zealand) that, in setting the stage for the development agenda beyond 2015, it was important not to lose sight of the overarching objective, namely sustainable development that integrated the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

51. New Zealand was strongly committed to ensuring the success of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2014 in Samoa. The outcome of that Conference would specify actions to be taken to address the special needs and vulnerabilities of those States and provide important input for the post-2015 development agenda. New Zealand had every expectation that that Conference, and future development conferences, would be inclusive, providing for the full participation of all States, including those such as the Cook Islands and Niue that were members of specialized agencies. Disaster risk reduction was another priority for his country and should be a key component of the post-2015 development agenda. New Zealand was keen to share its experience and capabilities with regard to preparedness and resilience building and looked

forward to the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which would adopt a successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action.

52. Sustainable management and conservation of natural resources was of particular importance to his country as it rebuilt after the recent earthquakes and extreme drought. New Zealand continued to promote renewable energy, in particular in the Pacific region, and strongly supported reform of fossil fuel subsidies. The Pacific Energy Summit, which New Zealand had hosted jointly with the European Union, had mobilized commitments of more than \$525 million for projects in Pacific small island developing States.

53. New Zealand was committed to working constructively to develop the new, comprehensive climate change agreement. His country was implementing an extensive emissions trading scheme in order to reach its emissions targets and was also working with partner countries through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

54. **Mr. Sarki** (Nigeria) said that, although important progress had been made at the national, regional and global levels in achieving the fundamental objectives of Agenda 21, successive crises had had a negative impact on the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustainable development. The global community must redouble its efforts to advance the sustainable development agenda. Developed countries must not renege on their commitments to developing countries in the areas of finance, trade, development assistance and the transfer of environment-friendly technology.

55. Noting that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which Nigeria welcomed, should enhance the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated manner, he said that his Government had adopted a people-oriented comprehensive development strategy. It had included elements of sustainable development in its medium- to long-term national development plan and had developed initiatives in various sectors, with priority given to environmentally sustainable activities and green technology. Efforts to further the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy must take account of the characteristics and vulnerabilities of small island developing States. Noting the important role of the United Nations in connection with the mobilization of resources, transfer of appropriate technology and

capacity-building support for small island developing States, he called for stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships to help those States achieve balanced and sustainable development.

56. Long-term strategies to mitigate natural disasters and build resilience across all regions must be developed and adopted. The global community should strengthen exchanges of disaster relief technology and information, and establish regional cooperation mechanisms for monitoring and early warning. Desertification was one of the greatest challenges. Frequent and severe droughts threatened the livelihoods of some of the poorest and most vulnerable populations in Africa, undermining economic growth and social progress. Countries in Africa were also dealing with the loss of surface waters that supported the lives of millions. The shrinking of Lake Chad was an issue of the utmost concern to his Government, which was making efforts through the Lake Chad Basin Commission to address the problem. He called on the international community, particularly the countries expected to provide inter-basin water transfers, to provide further assistance.

57. **Ms. Lu Me** (China) said that the international community should promote the implementation of the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, which provided a clear direction for sustainable development. In China's view, the sustainable development goals should be based on the MDGs and focus on poverty eradication. They must be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

58. With regard to sustainable development mechanisms, she said that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should provide political guidance, promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and enhance the integration of all three dimensions of sustainable development. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing should propose a sustainable development financing strategy as soon as possible.

59. In addressing the issue of climate change, it was important to respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should focus on further arrangements for the implementation of the Bali Road Map, and encourage developed

countries to ratify the amendment to the Kyoto Protocol concerning the second commitment period. China also hoped that a clear road map would be developed for the provision of financial assistance to developing countries before 2020.

60. Her Government attached great importance to sustainable development. Since the Rio+20 Conference, it had adopted new legislation and a series of strong political measures to promote environmental protection, the management of natural resources and the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. China had embarked on a path of a low carbon and green economy and was keen to cooperate with developing countries on the issue of climate change, including in the framework of South-South cooperation.

61. **Mr. Al Otaibi** (Saudi Arabia) said that his Government attached importance to the achievement of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including in the development agenda beyond 2015. Noting the importance of continued efforts to implement the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, he welcomed developments including the establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the initiative of the Secretary-General on Sustainable Energy for All, and supported actions to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries.

62. In the area of energy, his Government was striving to ensure market stability and prevent speculation. It was also increasing its investment in wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy, and endeavouring to reduce energy consumption.

63. Lastly, Saudi Arabia, which was a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, attached particular importance to climate change. It called for an integrated approach bringing together all developed and developing countries to tackle that important issue.

64. **Mr. Pokharel** (Nepal) said that his country looked forward to the timely conclusion of the remaining Rio +20 processes, such as the definition of inclusive sustainable development goals and the development of mechanisms for financing and supporting environmentally-sound technology for the most vulnerable countries. Poverty eradication must be the overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development

goals. Climate change placed a disproportionate burden on the poorest and most vulnerable countries. Nepal therefore called for early conclusion of the climate change negotiations and for appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures. Welcoming the initiative of the Secretary-General on Sustainable Energy for All, he said that the Green Climate Fund needed to be made fully operational. Enhanced human, technical and financial resources should be provided to developing countries to enable all parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The provision of comprehensive global support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was also critical.

65. Disaster risk reduction, which required effective coordination at all levels, should be built into the post-2015 development agenda and a successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action must be developed. He called for enhanced international support to enable developing countries to reduce disaster risks and build resilience.

66. Mountain people constituted approximately 12 per cent of the global population and were especially vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. Sustainable mountain development must therefore be fully integrated into the sustainable development goals and development framework beyond 2015. Nepal called for concerted international cooperation and global partnerships for the sustainable development of mountain countries in all areas.

67. **Mr. Kum Hanseung** (Republic of Korea) said that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which his delegation welcomed, must attract the attention of political leaders and respond to new and emerging challenges. It had a particularly important function in reviewing previous sustainable development commitments as well as progress made in achieving the sustainable development goals. Recognizing the need for coherence and consistency across all sustainable development processes, he hoped that the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would serve as a solid basis for intergovernmental negotiations on the development agenda beyond 2015.

68. The nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should provide a clear road map for negotiations on an ambitious legal agreement to tackle climate change — a phenomenon that posed the single greatest threat to sustainable development. Political engagement at the highest level was required to secure an agreement in 2015, and his country supported the Secretary-General's initiative to convene a Climate Summit in 2014.

69. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that the Rio+20 Conference had alerted the international community to the need to move away from unsustainable consumption and production patterns towards balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, a green economy, promotion of biodiversity and regeneration of ecosystems. His delegation welcomed the various intergovernmental processes under way to prepare "The future we want". The focus of the new development framework should be on key priority areas for poverty eradication and on the creation of a supportive global environment, since sustainable development would not be achieved without means of implementation.

70. His delegation noted with satisfaction the progress made at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in addressing challenges faced by countries, such as Botswana, that were vulnerable to drought, arid, semi-arid and desert conditions. It welcomed the decision to establish an intergovernmental working group to establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas, as well as a science policy interface to facilitate dialogue. Botswana trusted that desertification, land degradation and drought would be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

71. Botswana was committed to protecting its natural environment and had, to that end, designated 17 per cent of its territory as national parks, wildlife management areas and forest reserves. It was a party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Okavango Delta had been designated as the country's first site under the Ramsar Convention. Climate change had the potential to reverse the gains made thus far and constituted a severe threat, particularly for countries in sub-Saharan Africa that did not have the means or capacity for

adaptation and mitigation. Botswana looked forward to a successful outcome of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which would provide the basis for a legally binding agreement by 2015.

72. The pervasive financial crisis and asymmetries in the global trading system were preventing developing countries from fully implementing Agenda 21. Fulfilment of commitments set out in the Monterrey Consensus would give the international community an opportunity to pursue sustainable development efforts and promote the implementation of that Agenda. Issues to be addressed in that connection included greater market access, technology transfer, enhanced foreign direct investment and capacity-building.

73. **Mr. Simati** (Tuvalu) said that sustainable development in conformity with the Rio Principles was a universal aspiration and a shared responsibility. However, because of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, the world was approaching the tipping point. Ecological signposts were being ignored — the lacklustre second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol was a case in point. With the MDG target date approaching, it was time to develop new frameworks building on the successes and lessons learned from the MDG process to reflect evolving contexts and unique circumstances. His country, for its part, had mainstreamed the eight MDGs, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and Agenda 21 into its development strategy and new road map.

74. The sustainable development goals and new development framework must reflect agreed international frameworks and the needs of individual countries. The lessons of the global financial crisis must be mainstreamed into those goals, and rigorous financial governance and monitoring protocols must be developed to instil an ethical culture in globalized financial institutions.

75. Partnerships were the key to successful sustainable development. While donor countries should try to meet their global commitments despite austerity measures and budget constraints, recipient countries must practise good governance and fiscal prudence and enact regulatory frameworks to eliminate corruption and incentivize investments. In order to ensure aid effectiveness, the United Nations and donors must

respond to recipient needs and distinguish between small States, micro-States and low-income countries. In that connection, the extreme vulnerability of Tuvalu should be an overwhelming consideration with respect to its graduation from least developed country status. Welcoming the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative, he said that the deteriorating biodiversity of the ocean was a particular concern for sustainable development. Steps must be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stop the sea level rise, which, if left unchecked, could destroy entire cultures.

76. **Ms. Chui** (Singapore) said that the serious challenges that persisted in all three dimensions of sustainable development were creating new difficulties and must be addressed before the window of opportunity closed. A single, clear framework for the post-2015 development agenda that built on the MDGs and had sustainable development at its core must be developed. The international community had begun to implement the processes to guide work on sustainable development mandated by the Rio+20 Conference. Noting that the discussions within the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would help to build confidence and a common understanding of issues, she said that Singapore strongly advocated sustainable development goals for sustainable cities, human settlements and sanitation. She also highlighted the need for consistency in the activities of the Open Working Group and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. She welcomed the progress made in discussions on sustainable development financing and called for a serious discussion on options for a technology facilitation mechanism, which should be built on a robust intellectual property regime.

77. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development must continue to attract high-level decision-makers in order to undertake the institutional reforms required. It must also build synergies among the various Rio+20 processes and serve as the legitimate forum for discussion and coordination of progress.

78. Noting the need for a collective integrated approach involving all Member States and stakeholders to ensure that no country was left behind in the quest for sustainable development, she said that Singapore strongly supported the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The Committee

should work constructively to clarify the modalities for that Conference.

79. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that, despite efforts to incorporate sustainable development into policy agendas, several major challenges remained to integrate the three dimensions of sustainability. Development cooperation, in particular in the provision of new and additional financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, was essential. The establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the outcome of the reform on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council were also important for the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The international community must provide the Forum with sufficient resources and support.

80. Climate change was a serious challenge that could undermine progress towards achieving sustainable development. Desertification was a particular problem for Jordan, and her Government had undertaken several initiatives to address the issue, including a national action programme, efforts to improve water use efficiency and research on drought and saline-tolerant crops. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol should remain the central multilateral framework to address climate change issues. Jordan supported the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action and intended to become a party to the new legal agreement on climate change, provided that commitments were differentiated in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

81. Despite Jordan's rich biodiversity, many species and their habitats in the country were under threat. To promote sustainable development, Jordan was continuing to establish a national network of protected areas and improve monitoring and assessments.

82. The Hyogo Framework for Action should be strengthened, as should the implementation of plans and strategies for preparedness, rapid response, recovery and development. The first Arab States' consultation on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction had taken place in Jordan and representatives had underscored the importance of

concerted action, including an assessment of progress and gaps in implementation.

83. Noting that the decade 2014-2024 had been declared the decade of sustainable energy for all, she said that access to clean and renewable energy was essential for achieving sustainable development. The importance of energy issues for sustainable development and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda must therefore be emphasized.

84. **Mr. Malawane** (South Africa) said that it was important to recognize the commitments and critical decisions made to advance sustainable development at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and more recently at the Rio+20 Conference. It had been recognized that sustainable development could be achieved only through the full and balanced integration of its three dimensions, and that poverty eradication, promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and the protection and management of natural resources were also essential. South Africa welcomed the efforts to strengthen the United Nations institutional framework for sustainable development, including the reform of the Economic and Social Council, the decision to strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme and the establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The activities of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals were integral to the post-2015 development agenda, and South Africa welcomed the Group's openness and transparency. It also concurred with the proposed timelines for the adoption of the Group's report. Further efforts must be made to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, while acknowledging that developing countries still required policy space to pursue their development aspirations.

85. Climate change continued to pose serious challenges to development, particularly for developing countries. South Africa therefore called on the major greenhouse gas emitters to commit to emission reduction targets and contribute to the Green Climate Fund to ensure the availability of adequate resources to meet adaptation needs, particularly in developing countries. Efforts must be made to implement the agreement reached during the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change to develop a legally

binding framework by 2015 to come into effect by 2020. South Africa recognized the importance of the mobilization of financial resources for the achievement of sustainable development, and had made available an expert to serve on the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. It had also welcomed the recent High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

86. Recognizing the importance of partnerships for the achievement of development aspirations, he underscored the need for development partners to deliver on MDG8 (Global partnership for development) before the 2015 target date. Any new global partnership in the post-2015 development architecture should build on existing arrangements such as the Monterrey Consensus. Trade remained a key enabler of development for developing countries. South Africa therefore called for fair trade rules to enable all countries to compete on an equal footing, and for flexible intellectual property rights to ensure that the South had access to much needed technologies. It was unacceptable that, although Africa was a major source of raw materials, it accounted for only three per cent of global trade. Investors should therefore make use of opportunities that existed in many African countries for foreign direct investment and trade.

87. **Mr. Golan** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the cynical attacks made by the representative of Syria against his country were an attempt to divert attention from the real issue before the Committee. Those remarks had come from the representative of a regime that was committing crimes against its people on a daily basis in an attempt to maintain its position. If the Syrian regime really wanted to promote sustainable development, it should stop massacring its own people.

88. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the Israeli occupation was attempting to politicize the work of the Committee. The Committee was considering the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores ([A/68/544](#)) for the eighth consecutive year owing to the failure of the Israeli authorities to comply with United Nations resolutions calling on it to compensate Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic for the damage that had resulted from the oil slick. Noting that several important United Nations documents, including the outcome document of the Rio +20 Conference, entitled

“The future we want”, had called for the elimination of foreign occupation, he said that it was ironic that the representative of the Israeli occupation continued to make development project proposals while ignoring the right of the Arab peoples under occupation to achieve an adequate level of development. The Israeli occupying forces must put an end to the occupation to enable all peoples to realize their right to sustainable development.

89. **Mr. Golan** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the baseless allegations launched by the representative of Syria were preferable to the missiles and rockets that the Syrian Government had launched to kill over 100,000 of its own people. The Syrian regime specialized not only in terrorism and chemical weapons but also in the export of lies and misinformation.

90. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that Israel had been depriving the Palestinian people and those living in the Syrian Golan of their rights for almost six decades. The representative of the Israeli occupation therefore had no right to talk about the rights of peoples in the world to development and should not be allowed to cover up the crimes perpetrated by his country. The report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores ([A/68/544](#)) had again reaffirmed that the Government of Israel had neither assumed responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick nor paid the requested compensation.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.