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Second Committee**Summary record of the 14th meeting**

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Chairman: Mr. Toscano (Vice-Chairman) (Switzerland)**Contents**

Agenda item 73: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*)

Agenda item 54: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

(c) International migration and development (*continued*)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Toscano (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 73: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance
(continued)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (continued)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.9

1. **Mr. Skinner-Klée** (Guatemala) expressed the gratitude of his delegation and that of El Salvador for the solidarity, condolences and support they had received in response to tropical storm Stan earlier in October, including the immediate response of friendly countries and the United Nations system, through the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator. His country and El Salvador had begun to rebuild and improve the quality of life of communities affected by the disaster. His Government had developed a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme which it hoped would become a national plan that would also engage churches, civil society and the private sector.

2. Introducing draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.9 on humanitarian assistance and reconstruction for El Salvador and Guatemala, he said that the following delegations had joined the list of sponsors: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Benin, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Greece, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey and Zimbabwe. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Agenda item 54: Globalization and interdependence
(continued) (A/60/111 and A/60/115)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (continued)
(A/60/129 and A/60/322)

(b) Science and technology for development
(continued) (A/60/184)

(c) International migration and development
(continued) (A/60/205)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin
(continued) (A/60/157)

3. **Mr. Jomo** (Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating in the global economy (A/60/322), said that effective and beneficial participation in the global economy required a variety of strategic actions and policy decisions, including appropriate market-oriented reforms, measures to promote economic growth and reforms of the global financial and trade regimes. Nevertheless, many developing countries had taken those steps but had not yet benefited from globalization. That had generated scepticism about the benefits of globalization and raised questions about the circumstances in which beneficial integration actually occurred. The report addressed the role of institutions in fostering the beneficial integration of developing countries into the globalization process. Successful institutions fostered inclusiveness, enhanced accountability and transparency, facilitated innovation and learning and enhanced complementarities among institutional components. Policy development and planning for institution-building and institutional reform also must take into account the importance of the human capacity of countries for implementation.

4. The report examined the implications of the institutional dimension for achieving sustained economic growth, meeting basic needs, promoting equity and promoting environmental sustainability. The analysis led to conclusions and recommendations that could form the basis for the institutional agenda and for mainstreaming it in the broader design and implementation of development strategies. Considerable scope remained for more focused and in-depth analysis and dialogue on the subjects introduced in the report. The Secretariat looked forward to hearing the views of the Committee regarding specific areas that deserved further work.

5. **Mr. Tesfachew** (Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), introducing the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on science and technology for development (A/60/184), said that the report reviewed recent and ongoing biotechnology-

related activities undertaken by United Nations entities and the status of collaboration among them and made recommendations for further strengthening system-wide coordination, especially through UN-Biotech, and the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology.

6. The report classified biotechnology-related activities within the United Nations system into a number of programme areas: increasing the availability of food and renewable raw materials; improving human health; biosafety and the environment; trade and development and capacity-building. Based on an analysis of the findings of the report, it was proposed that the relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology work should work cooperatively in the context of UN-Biotech and within an integrated framework for biotechnology development. Their activities should focus on helping developing countries build productive capacity in all areas of biotechnology, such as industry, health and agriculture, as well as in risk assessment and management of biosafety. Such a framework should take advantage of existing programmes, including the newly established UNCTAD network of centres of excellence, affiliate centres of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and related work undertaken by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Given the growing importance of biotechnology for development and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, UN-Biotech must continue to explore mechanisms to help developing countries build the human capital and infrastructure necessary fully to participate in the global bioeconomy.

7. **Ms. Zlotnik** (Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/60/205), said that the report outlined the organizational details for the 2006 Dialogue, including the timing, recommendations concerning participation and the types of meetings to be held. She also drew attention to the topics for round-table discussions suggested in the report and to the suggestion that the General Assembly might wish to request wide dissemination of the Outcome so that it could be used to inform and buttress

further decision-making on how best to pursue consideration of international migration in relation to development and how to enhance multilateral cooperation in the field of international migration.

8. **Ms. de Winter** (Programme Officer, New York Office, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (A/60/157), announced that the United Nations Convention against Corruption had been ratified by 30 countries and would enter into force on 14 December 2005. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was now the custodian of five important crime instruments; the fact that they had been ratified within the past five years demonstrated that strengthening the rule of law and building strong judicial systems were at the heart of social and economic progress.

9. The entry into force of the Convention would enable the Conference of States Parties to the Convention to be convened, most likely during the fourth quarter of 2006. The Conference would serve as a robust and far-reaching review body and as a forum in which developing countries and countries with economies in transition could explain the difficulties they faced with implementation and seek appropriate technical assistance.

10. The legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was in the final stage of development and would most likely be published in early 2006. The Office planned to organize pre-ratification seminars at the regional and subregional levels in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, the Middle East and the Caribbean regions in order to encourage broad participation in the Conference of States Parties, provide opportunities to reflect on regional perspectives related to ratification and implementation issues and serve as forums in which States could review progress and exchange views and experience.

11. Document A/60/157 discussed, inter alia, the impact of corruption on stability and security, institutions and the rule of law, sustainable development and economic growth and politics. It also underscored the need for reliable and comparable data on the multidimensional impact of corruption,

illustrated how the Convention against Corruption might contribute to overcoming obstacles to curbing corruption, and made recommendations to the General Assembly for consideration and action.

12. She invited delegations to invite the relevant authorities in their countries, in particular anti-corruption bodies and organizations, to link up with the private sector and civil society to observe International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2005 and/or the entry into force of the Convention on 14 December 2005, thereby sending a clear message about the seriousness of the collective commitment to the fight against corruption.

13. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Secretary-General, by focusing in document A/60/322 on institution-building and institutional capacity, had drawn attention to a challenge which the Group of 77 and China had sought to highlight over the years. They welcomed the fact that the report recognized that a narrow focus limiting institutional reform to the liberalization of markets and arrangements for securing private property rights — which were the fundamental prescriptions of structural adjustment programmes and the Washington Consensus — were not sufficient to achieve the agreed development goals.

14. Surprisingly, the report argued that the principal challenge facing developing countries was the need to develop sound institutional foundations for the effective and efficient functioning of markets. Given the limitations of the market, non-market-based institutions such as cooperatives had often been successful in meeting the financial needs of the poor, women in particular.

15. Institutional development and capacity-building of the scale needed by the developing countries required physical and technological infrastructure beyond their financial and technical capacity. The report did not adequately address the need for a supportive and facilitative international environment to achieve those objectives. The Group of 77 and China had accorded high priority to South-South cooperation in capacity-building, including the establishment of regional cooperative arrangements, and had insisted at all United Nations conferences and summits on the need to give priority to capacity-building and institutional strengthening in developing countries. The real obstacle to the implementation of conference and

summit agreements on capacity-building and institutional strengthening had been the level of external facilitation. It was therefore very surprising that the report placed the main responsibility for taking action on the developing countries and that international support and facilitation was not raised as a significant issue in the report. The Group of 77 and China had expected strong recommendations from the Secretary-General in that critical area.

16. Although the report called for a global sustained capacity and institutional development effort, it did not indicate what types of institutional innovations institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO) should propose for adaptation by developing countries. With regard to the call for coherence, the report of the 2005 World Summit had reaffirmed the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting. It was not clear how the recommendation in the report calling for expert-level meetings would advance a process where policy decisions were needed. The World Bank and IMF, for example, were already dealing with governance issues relating to their internal arrangements and had stated that they needed clear policy guidance. The next report of the Secretary-General on the issues discussed in document A/60/322 should offer more ideas on how coherence and participation could be advanced.

17. UN-Biotech could help to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries in the field of biotechnology and even contribute to the achievement of some of the Millennium Development Goals. In serving as an advisory unit for developing countries, UN-Biotech must attempt to break the current pattern of biotechnology production and sales concentrated in the North and consumption in the South. The Group of 77 and China attached particular importance to section E of the report on capacity-building and welcomed the UNCTAD initiative to set up centres of excellence on science and technology in developing countries. Sufficient resources for their effective operation must be assured.

18. The Group of 77 and China supported the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in building the capacities of developing countries in new and emerging technologies, such as information and communication technologies and

biotechnology. They were in favour of expanding the Commission's country reviews in an effort to promote an exchange of experiences on diverse technologies in the South. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the contribution by various scientific and research institutions based in Trieste, Italy, particularly the Third World Academy of Sciences and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

19. In order to encourage the application of the latest science and technology to agriculture, health, energy, trade, water and environmental protection, the Group of 77 and China had launched an award for research by scientists from the South. The first "Group of 77 Award for Science, Technology and Innovation" had been bestowed on Professor P. Prieto of Colombia.

20. Turning to migration and development, he noted that the report of the Global Commission on International Migration made no recommendation on the content of the High-level Dialogue scheduled for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. Although it had not fully analysed the findings and recommendations contained in the Global Commission's report, Group of 77 and China believed they would assist preparations for the High-level Dialogue, and that a number of them could even be implemented earlier.

21. With regard to corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, he said that substantial sums illegally transferred from developing countries must be repatriated. He called for greater collaboration with the developed countries and their financial institutions in finding creative ways to uncover illegal transactions, trace funds and arrange for their return.

22. **Ms. Haycock** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, called for action to ensure that all countries benefited equally from globalization.

23. The European Union warmly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating the global economy (A/60/322). It agreed, in particular,

that institutions imposed from the top by the Governments without the involvement of all stakeholders would not be sustainable. Rather, institutions must be accountable, inclusive and attuned to their social and historical environment. For developing countries, in particular, that was a major challenge. Fortunately, the number of institutions needed to achieve growth was much smaller than the number required to sustain it.

24. Praising the high profile given to investment in science and technology, she said that information and communication technologies could boost productivity and growth and would play a vital role in meeting internationally agreed development goals, particularly in Africa. Science and technology must be harnessed to promote development in such areas as health, agriculture and sustainable development, and to support the spread of democratic and transparent governance. Effective information societies must be based on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

25. Earlier in the year, the European Union had welcomed the importance accorded to science and technology in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In Larger Freedom" and in the report of the Commission for Africa. Investments in science and technology must be driven by local priorities and needs, and more effectively reflected in poverty reduction strategies and national strategic planning and budgeting.

26. Turning to the issue of corruption, she said that the European Union welcomed the Secretary-General's acknowledgement, in his report, that corruption posed a severe threat to sustainable development. The fight against corruption must be aimed at achieving good governance, transparent and accountable public financial management systems, equitable and efficient tax systems and stable and predictable public investment climates. She called for the mobilization and effective use of domestic and external resources and the full integration of the Millennium Development Goals into country-owned plans and poverty reduction strategies. The European Union looked forward to the first Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and urged more countries to ratify the Convention. Further steps should be taken to monitor implementation of the Convention.

27. Globalization was changing the face of migration and creating new opportunities as well as new challenges for countries of origin, destination and transit. The European Union worked in partnership with both source and transit countries and believed that international cooperation and partnership were necessary in order to deal with migration issues in a coordinated and coherent manner. Regional cooperation and recognition of the differing concerns of States would be vital to that end. The Union acknowledged the important connection between international migration and development, followed closely the work of the Commission on International Migration and Development and looked forward to the High-level Dialogue on migration and development. In September 2005, the European Commission had published a communication on migration and development. Anxious to ensure that migration occurred by choice, and that it benefited all concerned, the Union was working on promoting safer, easier and cheaper remittance transfers, enhancing the developmental impact of remittances and supporting Diaspora communities as an agent of development in their home countries. In that connection, it welcomed the resolution on remittances.

28. The European Union hoped that the focus on migration would lead to strengthened protection for refugees and displaced persons, and to measures to combat illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Development cooperation, codes of good practice and other actions were needed to offset the loss of skilled workers in vulnerable sectors and sending countries. In conclusion, she reaffirmed the Union's commitment to the protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families.

29. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating in the global economy (A/60/322). Building institutions for sustained development was both a top priority and a major challenge for the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States.

30. The Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 specifically directed them to build institutional

capacities that would strengthen social infrastructure and the delivery of social services in the areas of human health, nutrition, sanitation, education and training, including non-formal education. At the same time, it urged development partners to support initiatives relating to social safety nets, micro-credit and non-governmental organizations, to adopt policies and measures at the international level to support the integration of the least developed countries into the global economy and ensure their effective participation in economic decision-making, and to make financial and technical assistance available to them. In that connection, he noted the Secretary-General's appeal, in his report, for "fair rules" that facilitated the beneficial participation of developing countries in the global economy (A/60/322, para. 27).

31. Noting that 34 of the 50 least developed countries were in Africa, he said that the challenges discussed in the report affected the most vulnerable countries in larger measure than the rest of the developing world. The least developed countries and their national institutions were forced to adjust to a constantly changing world economy and social, political and economic environment in addition to coping with the requirements of varying stages of development. Concerned with meeting basic needs and promoting equity, the least developed countries were also disproportionately affected by the competing demands of efficiency, equity and sustainability in the globalization process.

32. Like the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the report of the Secretary-General stressed the crucial importance of international development assistance and the role of the private sector, civil society and public-private partnerships in supporting the development of the least developed countries. He praised the establishment of a performance assessment framework for donors by Mozambique, a least developed country, with a view to increasing aid effectiveness.

33. Modern globalization had created unprecedented opportunities for the free flow of capital, goods, services, information, skills and technology and offered new perspectives for integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the world economy. While migration of skilled workers from the least developed countries negatively affected their growth and development, and the brain drain was taking its toll on their health care systems, returning migrants brought back skills, knowledge and work

experience that boosted productivity. Expatriates also transmitted significant capital flows through remittances, and transferred knowledge and technology. After foreign direct investment, remittances were the largest predictable and stable source of external financing for many poor countries, far surpassing official development assistance. They also increased the availability of credit and spurred entrepreneurship and development. Supportive labour and migration policies at the international level would help to ensure that the least developed countries reaped the benefits of globalization.

34. His Office was assisting in the preparations for a ministerial conference of the least developed countries on remittances and development, an initiative of Mr. Rogatien Biaou, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Benin and Chairman of the Group of Least Developed Countries. The conference, to be held in Cotonou in February 2006, would follow up consideration of remittances at the 2004 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and would focus on reducing transfer costs and improving remittance services, enhancing the development impact of remittances and improving research and analysis to support remittance policies and programme development. The Conference outcomes would provide excellent input to the 2006 High-level Dialogue devoted to international migration and development.

35. In conclusion, he drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/44, requesting the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields (para. 11). He hoped that those issues would be addressed in future reports, in particular, during the mid-term comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme of Action at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

36. **Mr. Poojary** (India) said that, while the developing countries benefited from the opening up of global markets, they were often subjected to unfavourable rules. Caught between the intellectual property rights and trade regimes, and loan conditionalities imposed by the World Bank and IMF, developing countries could not fully pursue their own strategies for eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth. Fair globalization required political will and a strong stance by the United Nations in favour of a development-oriented outcome of trade negotiations.

37. As development criteria shifted from manufacturing to services, and from capital resources to knowledge resources, the developing world must be able to harness the potential of non-material, knowledge-based resources to build a knowledge economy and society. His Government had created a National Knowledge Commission with a view to transforming India into a knowledge-producing, knowledge-sharing and knowledge-consuming society. Recognizing the importance of science and technology in development, it had increased its investment in research and development by approximately \$1.5 billion between 1996 and 2002.

38. Globalization had increased the linkage between migration, on the one hand, and trade capacity, competitiveness and employment policy, on the other. With global companies operating in an international context, the gap between migration policy and trade policy could manifest itself in immigration controls that acted as non-tariff barriers. For globalization to be meaningful for developing countries, the developed countries would have to demonstrate far greater openness in allowing the movement of natural persons across national frontiers; that would be in keeping with their own insistence on freedom of movement in respect of capital, goods and services.

39. The role of science and technology in development could not be overemphasized. National efforts must be complemented by international rules that took account of the developing countries' need for access to a broad spectrum of technological know-how. However, it was a matter of concern that the cost of technology transfer through the intellectual property rights regime had risen sharply; there was a need for integration of the development dimension in the regime's rule-making process that would facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries. For the developing countries to prevent the misuse of their biogenetic resources, it was particularly important that the requirements of disclosure, prior informed consent and equitable benefit-sharing be incorporated in the provisions on patents of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) regime in order to align it with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The United Nations should take the lead in creating a traditional knowledge and resources digital library linked to the international patent specifications system.

40. The developed countries could stimulate technological advances that had the potential to change

lives for the better while bearing in mind safety requirements and ethical values. The Secretary-General's report had rightly observed that biotechnology in the agriculture sector offered opportunities for enhancing crop production; it could also significantly contribute to the achievement of development goals. The United Nations should take the lead in exploring ways to enable developing countries to reap greater benefits from biotechnology and to assist them in their efforts to build the necessary human resources and infrastructure to participate in the bio-economy. The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in New Delhi, India, had placed emphasis on research and training activities in crop improvement, biosafety and health-related issues, and had developed and patented several products which were available to the agro- and pharmaceutical industries in developing countries.

41. The Secretary-General, in his report, had focused on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integration in the global economy. Home-grown institutions were important, but there was an urgent need to create an enabling international environment to make globalization a positive force for all. In his report to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General might include an in-depth analysis of all factors linked to the process of globalization.

42. **Mr. Siv** (United States of America) said that his country had established clearly defined and generous opportunities for legal immigration. The United States believed that national policies on migration should ensure that it was legal, orderly and humane. It believed that the 2006 High-level Dialogue on international migration and development would be most effective at the sub-ministerial level, bringing experts together to discuss best practices in the management of migration at national and regional levels, ensuring fruitful discussions and reducing possibly divisive politicking.

43. The recent report of the Global Commission on International Migration had recommended the creation of an "inter-agency global migration facility", enabling more than a dozen United Nations and other international agencies to coordinate migration issues. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) would be the appropriate body to act as a focus for discussions on migration. It was unconvinced of the need for another mechanism.

44. Migration did not occur in a vacuum, and no single State could effectively manage it alone. While coordination was desirable, it must have at its core the fact that migration law and policies were the sovereign right of States. Effective coordination was best done at bilateral or regional levels, where States could focus on specific, concrete and practical issues. Globalization had made international migration an ever-growing phenomenon, and policies that promoted legal and orderly migration could benefit all countries through the exchange of cultures and ideas, through the ability of labour migration to relieve shortages in the labour force, and through the ability of countries of origin to benefit from remittances. Efforts must be made to maximize the benefits of migration and reduce its negative consequences, including the possible harm when migrants travelled in an irregular status. Effective management and coordination at national, bilateral and regional levels were of key importance in ensuring that migration remained on balance a positive phenomenon.

45. **Mr. Alim** (Bangladesh), stressing the close relationship between migration and development and the role of migration in balancing economic flows, said that massive emigration of highly skilled citizens posed troubling dilemmas for many smaller low-income countries. The challenge for developing countries was to convert the brain drain into a brain gain. International migration had not been adequately addressed either in the Millennium Development Goals or at the 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting, and there was a conspicuous gap in research and analysis on how migration was linked to attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

46. Migration and short-term movement of service providers were two different phenomena. Regrettably, neither the recently published report of the Global Commission on International Migration nor the World Bank publication entitled *Migration, Remittances and the Brain Drain* had adequately dealt with the issue of service providers. Multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) offered a framework for addressing migration under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. His delegation hoped that the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference would make meaningful progress in that regard. Facilitating remittance flows was another action with potentially high payoffs. Host countries must ensure unhindered transfer of funds to the countries of origin

with minimal transaction costs. Sending countries should also help diasporas use remittances properly, invest back home and reintegrate upon their return.

47. Bangladesh belonged to the supply side of the world labour market. International migration of labour was a central issue in the country's economic planning. Total earnings from remittances had increased by about 14.2 per cent between 2004 and 2005. Remittances made a significant contribution to the gross national product and helped offset a negative balance of payments by providing 30 per cent of export earnings and some 20 per cent of import payments.

48. Given the immense potential of welfare gains from migration and short-term movement of service providers, policies were needed to ensure that such gains were not wasted. His delegation hoped that the High-level Dialogue on international migration to be held in 2006 would lay the foundation for enhanced international cooperation in that area.

49. **Mr. Mammadov** (Azerbaijan) said that in the context of globalization and interdependence his country fully supported a focus on the institutional dimension and an analysis of the challenges associated with institutional development. The country-specific approach should be an essential component in the process of establishing and adapting institutions, and progress in addressing the issue of the global institutional gap was required because of its impact on the sustainability of institutional reforms at national level. Azerbaijan had undertaken an improvement of its public administration as an integral element of its institutional reform. Its institutional framework had been improved in order to increase efficiency between the public and private sectors. Judicial and legal reforms were a key component in its institution-building process. Azerbaijan shared concern regarding the growing social institutional gap, and considered that, on a broader scale, the redesign of policies on social inclusion and integration was required. For those policies to be effective, the economic capacities of developing countries should be enhanced by an enabling international environment.

50. Corruption was one of the major impediments to economic and social development, and Azerbaijan had attached great importance to international cooperation in that field, signing and ratifying a number of relevant international conventions, and undertaking extensive measures to meet its international obligations by

improving its anti-corruption legislative framework and law enforcement institutions.

51. Azerbaijan attached great importance to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on international migration and development, and welcomed the increased attention being given to the subject by the United Nations system, notably in respect of efforts to maximize the development impact of migration.

52. **Ms. Grindlay** (Australia) said that the key to maximizing the benefits from migration, including its development potential for both countries of destination and countries of origin, was to maximize national capacities to manage migration effectively. Australia agreed with the international community supporting the efforts of States to formulate and implement national migration policies through the contribution of resources, expertise and training.

53. Australia had had a managed migration policy for more than 50 years, after considerable investment of resources and commitments by successive Governments. The policy was global and non-discriminatory. Australia operated parallel humanitarian and migration programmes. The humanitarian programme helped to protect refugees and those in situations of serious humanitarian need. The migration programme included a segment that supported the skills needs of business and industry and ensured that skilled migrants could integrate quickly into the labour market, and a segment for the reunion of close family members. Australia also had a range of temporary entry mechanisms. Migrants entering the country lawfully under all those programmes were protected by the same labour rights and human rights as Australian citizens. While facilitating legal entry, Australia also sought to combat the exploitation of workers and the illegal activities of people smugglers and traffickers.

54. The development impacts of migration policies relied in large part on the actions and capacities of countries of origin, which needed to create jobs and sustainable livelihoods in order to retain key personnel and to implement macroeconomic policies that supported economic growth and competitiveness so that the benefits of remittances could be maximized. In some cases, development assistance could help to build that environment. Australia was working to help other States meet those challenges. Bilaterally it had supported a number of States in undertaking

assessments of their border management, and it had also been a strong supporter of regional processes. Better coordination between United Nations agencies with an interest in migration would support and assist States with a range of actions to improve migration capacities. The 2006 High-level Dialogue should include a focus on capacity-building in migration management.

55. **Mr. Berrah** (Algeria) said that two fundamental questions were raised by the agenda item: how globalization could be made a factor for development and integration rather than a factor for excluding changing economies, and how to make international migration a genuine instrument of development for the countries of origin and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. There was also the need to determine the nature of the link between international migration and globalization, which was ambiguous and deserved greater attention, particularly in terms of ensuring a balance between globalization-specific and migration-specific issues. The relationship between the two was often addressed from a purely economic point of view, neglecting other important dimensions and impacts. Insufficient emphasis, for example, was given to the contradictory pressures exerted by globalization on both the developed and the developing countries. While there was a growing demand in the developed countries for foreign workers, there was also a growing fear of job losses and cultural changes attributed to globalization. The selective policies adopted in reaction to such concerns were increasingly influenced by radical political movements, which used the climate of suspicion and fear created by terrorist attacks as an opportunity to sow confusion and doubt in people's minds by establishing a supposed link between migrants and terrorist attacks. That had had the effect of creating a climate of mistrust towards foreigners, and particularly Muslims.

56. Another factor that was not discussed was the influence of the flagrant imbalances created by globalization in terms of quality of life on the desire of people from developing countries to migrate to developed countries. When they encountered restrictive conditions and policies of selective migration, they became disillusioned and swelled the ranks of foreigners in irregular situations.

57. There was no simple causal link between international migration and development. Migration

could have positive and negative impacts on both the countries of destination and the countries of origin. The reports emphasized the importance of migrants' remittances as an instrument of financing for development. In that connection, it should be borne in mind that migration represented a considerable cost initially to households and States of origin before it made its contribution through remittances to national and local economies; remittances should be regarded as private funds and not as a substitute for ODA and FDI; international migration involved a transfer of human capital and skills that was damaging for developing countries which saw no return on their investments and on the substantial sums allocated to education and training; finally, the use of migrants for political purposes had the serious effect of making their situation even more precarious.

58. The selection of international migration and development as the subject of the 2006 High-level Dialogue demonstrated a growing awareness of the importance of the issue, and his delegation hoped that equal attention would be given to its economic, social and human dimensions. In order to ensure an inclusive and multidisciplinary dialogue, the expertise and experience of institutions specializing in the subject should be tapped. There should be a long-term strategy based on a genuine partnership. The Dialogue should above all consider the fundamental causes of clandestine migration, particularly the inequalities caused by globalization which had terrible consequences for local and national economies, and the absence of coherence and coordination at subregional and regional levels in determining and implementing migration policies.

59. **Mr. Chulkov** (Russian Federation) expressed support for the conclusions and recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/322), particularly the organization of expert-level meetings for in-depth analysis of issues pertaining to institutional development. The Russian Federation considered it advisable to continue, at forthcoming sessions of the General Assembly, to consider the most topical, individual and fundamental aspects of the phenomenon of globalization and interdependence. Effective control of the processes of globalization in order to neutralize their negative consequences and enhance their positive impact in the interest of achieving the Millennium Development Goals was possible only if the

international community adopted a collective and holistic approach.

60. The Russian Federation favoured cooperation in science and technology in order to achieve sustainable development and bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. Using the potential of biotechnology in tackling problems of food security, industrial development, health care and protection of the environment was of vital importance. He noted the important role of United Nations organizations working in the area of biotechnology, and mentioned in particular that Russian scientific institutions were actively involved in the work of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. There was a need to promote United Nations cooperation in the area of science and technology for sustainable development in a consistent manner and through an integrated approach, establishing a broad framework for joint action that took into account the social, economic, political and cultural consequences of their practical application.

61. Regional cooperation was one of the most effective ways of regulating international migration, as had been demonstrated within the Commonwealth of Independent States and between the Russian Federation and the European Union. The 2006 High-level Dialogue on international migration and development should consider the multidimensional aspects, with emphasis on the control of migratory processes and analysis of the causes and impact on political, socio-economic and demographic situations in countries of origin, transit and destination.

62. The Russian Federation regarded it as a matter of priority to expand international cooperation to prevent and eradicate corruption, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin. Expressing the hope that the United Nations Convention against Corruption would enter into force as soon as possible, he said that the Russian Federation was taking national and regional steps to combat corruption and to return transferred assets of illicit origin to countries of origin.

63. **Mr. Bennouna** (Morocco) said that Morocco had recently become a transit and receiving country for migrants from the sub-Saharan region. Migrants were often victims of human trafficking, and Morocco was determined to combat the criminal networks that engaged in such activities. Bilateral and regional cooperation were needed, and individual countries

must take responsibility for guarding their borders and cooperating in the effort to combat the problem. His country had consistently worked to combat illegal immigration within the framework of its domestic legislation and with full respect for the human rights, security and socio-economic rights of all immigrants, including those who were repatriated. It was encouraging to note that the number of successful attempts to cross the Moroccan border and enter Europe illegally had fallen by 40 per cent during the first nine months of 2005 compared with the same period in 2004. The Government had allocated substantial resources for returning persons in transit to their countries of origin. The Government's efforts to combat illegal immigration placed a serious burden on the national budget and the economy as a whole. Because Morocco had become a target country for illegal immigration, it could not bear the burden alone. Thanks to cooperation between his country and Spain, France, the European Union and the sub-Saharan African countries, successful North-South and South-South partnerships had been developed. His Government was looking forward to strengthening cooperation with the countries of the Maghreb, particularly Algeria. Morocco and Spain had decided to request the convening of a ministerial-level meeting of African and European countries to consider the complex phenomenon in all its facets.

64. A global approach, including multidimensional cooperation at the regional and international levels, was needed to address the issue of migration. Sending countries, transit countries and receiving countries must work together to find lasting solutions, developing genuine partnerships between the countries concerned. The contribution of developed countries to assistance programmes in Africa was crucial. Implementation of economic and social projects would also play an important role in reducing illegal immigration.

65. His Government's policies were designed to involve all sectors of the economy in creating favourable conditions for production and employment and absorbing the abundant supply of labour in those areas where migration was most likely to occur. In May 2005, the Government had launched the National Human Development Initiative. In cooperation with the sub-Saharan countries and in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Morocco was carrying out a number of initiatives with

private sector participation that were aimed at setting up South-South partnerships for sustainable development.

66. His delegation looked forward to the High-level Dialogue to be held at the United Nations in 2006, which would contribute to developing a global and comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of migration.

67. **Mr. Yao Wenlong** (China), speaking on item 54 (a), said that sound and viable institutions were vital for sustaining economic growth, regulating and adjusting the process of globalization and reconciling different interests. Each country had to tailor its institutions to its particular circumstances and needs while drawing on the experience of others. The international community should encourage and support efforts by developing countries in that regard.

68. At the international level, the main challenge in addressing institutional problems lay in the asymmetry of globalization. The international community must promote a pro-development model of globalization through reform of the global economic system and establishment of an open, fair, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trade and financial system. It was also important to establish fairer rules of competition between partners and increase the participation of developing countries in international economic affairs and in the decision-making process. No country was immune from the challenges posed by globalization. As the major beneficiaries of globalization, the developed countries had the duty to help their traditional domestic industries and labour forces that were no longer competitive. Promoting liberalization only for those industries that had gained an edge and imposing high barriers to protect their sunset industries would entail high economic costs and be politically short-sighted.

69. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development (A/50/184), he said that the technological activities of various organs of the United Nations system should be strengthened, and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide policy guidance. Emphasis should be placed on addressing the concerns of the developing countries.

70. Migration had a positive impact on the economies of many countries. In order to maximize the positive effect of international migration on worldwide

development, all countries should formulate sound immigration policies, and the international community should strengthen international cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit. In addition, further studies should be made of the differences in geography, history, culture and level of development of various countries which gave rise to migration.

71. Turning to item 54 (d), on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin, he said that the Chinese Government maintained a firm position against corruption. China had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December 2003 and had adopted a number of important policy measures, focusing especially on legislation and institution-building. In January 2005, China had launched a programme on prevention of corruption. His Government stood ready to strengthen cooperation with all countries in the fight against corruption.

72. **Mr. Dall'Oglio** (International Organization for Migration) said that the increasing relevance of migration was evident in the fact that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was experiencing an ongoing growth in membership and in the increased demand for dialogue, cooperation and partnership on migratory questions on the part of sovereign States, regional and intergovernmental organizations, local administrations, NGOs and civil society. The International Dialogue on Migration, which since 2002 had been the centrepiece of the annual IOM Council meeting, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome reflected the need to find new forms of international cooperation to tackle migratory issues. The High-level Dialogue on migration and development called for by General Assembly resolutions 58/208 and 59/241 represented a timely and unique opportunity to build on the significant developments he had mentioned. His organization looked forward to contributing to the preparation of the High-level Dialogue as well as to actively taking part in it. The decision to hold the High-level Dialogue had achieved the important goal of placing the link between migration and development high on the agenda of all interested parties. The next step would be to mainstream migration in current development frameworks. That would be consistent with the Millennium Development Goals and could become one of the priorities of the High-level Dialogue.

73. More attention was also being given to the potential benefits of diaspora involvement in home communities. His organization had been encouraging and supporting the development of networks and programmes among expatriate communities for development purposes and could help identify and organize the participation of representatives from diaspora organizations in the High-level Dialogue. The economic impact of South-South migration flows also deserved to be carefully discussed and valued.

74. Greater international cooperation was also needed to protect the human rights of migrants. The High-level Dialogue could serve as a forum to promote at the highest level the ratification of or accession to the applicable international legal instruments, as well as to identify measures to assist developing countries in implementing their provisions.

75. The collective capacity to manage the migration phenomenon should be addressed in a more holistic manner. Active participation of regional consultative processes in the High-level Dialogue could facilitate a broader knowledge of their achievements and foster dialogue among them.

76. Beyond regional mechanisms, the High-level Dialogue could present an ideal opportunity to assess progress achieved within some of the global processes he had mentioned and to discuss proposals made recently by the Global Commission on International Migration in the area of managing migration. It would also offer a chance to enhance commonality of purpose and to avoid duplication among multilateral agencies. The Geneva Migration Group, established with the participation of IOM, already brought together the heads of six agencies dealing with migration. The High-level Dialogue might consider ways of building on and expanding efforts in that area.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.