



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
3 December 2013

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 18th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 23 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Dhanapala (Vice-Chair) (Sri Lanka)

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13-52734 (E)



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In the absence of Mr. Diallo (Senegal), Mr. Dhanapala (Sri Lanka), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 16: Information and communication technologies for development (*continued*) (A/68/65-E/2013/11)

1. **Mr. Taib** (Malaysia) said that information and communications technologies (ICTs) were critical enablers of economic development and investment. The sector had experienced tremendous growth over the previous 10 years. Many developments, such as the growth of the mobile Internet, social networking and cloud computing, had not even been anticipated at the World Summit on the Information Society. Malaysia therefore welcomed the 10-year review of the Summit's outcomes.

2. The telecommunication and multimedia industry provided a strong foundation for further growth of the ICT sector in Malaysia. ICTs were being integrated into its development agenda through such government initiatives as the Multimedia Super Corridor and ICT Development by Community for Community under the Digital Malaysia programme. His Government was determined to ensure that all citizens had access to communication facilities. Under the National Broadband Initiative, young people were able to apply for a rebate on selected smart phones, and 1 million computers were being distributed to low-income groups to facilitate Internet access and increase broadband usage. At the international level, the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme had made a meaningful contribution to South-South cooperation, providing support to over 141 developing countries since 1981. At the regional level, Malaysia would continue to support the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in developing ICT principles to guide policymakers on issues such as cross-border information flows.

3. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that his country endorsed Human Rights Council resolution 20/8, which recognized the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development. Sri Lanka had made commendable progress in the area of ICTs with a view to becoming the major ICT and knowledge hub in the region. Its e-society development initiative had been instrumental in building the capacity of over 400 remote rural communities and the national ICT

literacy rate had increased from 9.7 per cent in 2009 to approximately 40 per cent in 2013. Sri Lanka had also been progressing well in the telecommunications field: the cellular penetration rate had increased from 87.8 per cent in 2011 to 110 per cent. The first commercial 4G mobile service in South Asia was now in operation in Sri Lanka and his country had been recognized at the World Summit Award Mobile 2012. As a result of initiatives by the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka, over 300 government websites were available in local languages and an island-wide rural network of 699 telecentres delivered e-government services in local languages.

4. The global economic crisis had affected Sri Lanka's capacity to mobilize resources and acquire new technologies. More must be done to strengthen South-South cooperation and further enhance North-South cooperation in the field of ICTs. Assistance in building capacity and promoting mutual understanding of the global connectivity infrastructure was particularly important.

5. **Ms. Bilello** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that the World Summit had done much to bring the potential of information technology to the forefront of thinking and decision-making. UNESCO had been assigned responsibility for six WSIS action lines, in recognition of the fact that, once infrastructure was in place, people must have the capacity to transform information into knowledge and understanding to enhance their livelihoods and contribute to the social and economic development of their societies. UNESCO had therefore been promoting the idea of a transition from information to inclusive knowledge societies with a focus on the human dimension of ICTs and the human rights of all to have access to information and express their ideas freely.

6. In February, UNESCO had hosted the first World Summit 10-year review event, at which 1,500 participants from Governments, civil society, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had reviewed recent trends and discussed future developments and priorities in the field of information and knowledge societies. The United Nations Group on the Information Society, currently chaired by UNESCO, had recently issued a joint statement stressing the importance of ICTs for the development agenda beyond 2015 and the need for

interaction between the post-2015 development agenda and the 10-year Summit review processes.

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence

- (a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/68/259)**
- (b) Science and technology for development (A/68/227)**
- (c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/68/265)**
- (d) Culture and development (A/68/266)**

7. **Ms. Akhtar** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/68/259), said that increasing global interdependence had far-reaching implications for national development strategies and objectives. Although globalization had brought many opportunities, including with respect to trade and ICTs, not all countries and peoples were benefiting from its full positive potential. Imbalances in the distribution of costs and benefits; economic, social and environmental crises; conflict in different parts of the world; and the impact of international migration on globalization were all challenges that must still be addressed. There was also a need for more effective multilateral cooperation.

8. The report recommended, inter alia, enhancing the effectiveness of multilateralism to realize fully the opportunities of globalization while minimizing its costs and risks. To that end, the United Nations could promote further multilateral coordination, coherence and accountability beyond 2015 and ensure the proper functioning of the institutional framework for the review and follow-up work in the General Assembly, and the Economic and Social Council, including the newly created High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. There was also a need for improved data and statistics to analyse the impact of globalization on development and for a longer-term strategic repositioning of the United Nations development system to ensure its effectiveness and relevance in the new development environment.

9. Efforts must be made to place development at the centre of globalization and to ensure greater consistency in the policies of all countries. The

elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda offered an historic opportunity to change the development paradigm; a broader development framework would help to address the highly interrelated opportunities, challenges and risks of globalization in a rapidly evolving development landscape. In its discussion of the agenda item, the Committee might wish to focus on a particular aspect of globalization.

10. **Mr. Bandarin** (Assistant Director-General for Culture, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), introducing the report of the Director-General of UNESCO (A/68/266), said that culture had been absent from the targets and indicators of the Millennium Development Goals. Over the previous 10 years, UNESCO and other partners in the United Nations system had sought to advance the notion of culture, including through the establishment of a normative framework and the implementation of numerous projects in the field, with the support of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund. Culture should be regarded as both an enabler and a driver of sustainable development, and the cultural sector was contributing increasingly to income generation and job creation.

11. The report outlined a number of activities undertaken over the previous two years, including the establishment of a Task Team on Culture and Development and the organization of an international congress entitled "Culture: key to sustainable development", held in Hangzhou, China, in May 2013. The report also indicated that culture was now included in 70 per cent of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and offered recommendations for enhancing the role of culture in the development agenda beyond 2015.

12. **Ms. Henderson** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development (A/68/227), said that the report highlighted the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in areas such as agriculture, ICTs and environmental management. It also provided information on activities carried out by UNCTAD and other organizations to assist developing countries in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into their national development plans and strategies. At its fifteenth session, the Commission had highlighted the importance of ICT

capacities in developing countries as a means of promoting learning and fostering research capabilities, and at its sixteenth session, the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring sustainable urbanization and the contribution of national broadband policy frameworks in overcoming the digital divide. It had also continued to assist the Economic and Social Council in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

13. UNCTAD had published a study on geospatial science and technology for development and its Technology and Innovation Report 2012 series had focused on South-South collaboration for technology and innovation. Recent UNCTAD science, technology and innovation policy reviews for three Latin American countries, carried out in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), had sought to raise awareness among policymakers and other stakeholders of the role of science, technology and innovation in growth and development, and to identify a set of priorities for strengthening national capacities in those areas.

14. Preparatory work by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and UNCTAD on the post-2015 development agenda had focused on the need to address persistent obstacles to technology and innovation capacity in developing countries through a global partnership for development. Four public policy areas that were indispensable for fostering science, technology and innovation in the post-2015 development agenda had been identified, namely: technical know-how and innovation capacity, incentives, information, and partnerships. UNCTAD would be organizing a panel meeting in December on two new substantive themes before the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, namely science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda and ICTs for inclusive social and economic development. The outcomes of the panel would be incorporated into the agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission in May 2014.

15. **Mr. Kempf** (Global Economic Monitoring Unit, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/68/265), said that the report contained an analysis of the macroeconomic conditions in middle-income countries, an assessment of the engagement of

the United Nations system in those countries, and recommendations and conclusions.

16. As middle-income countries comprised approximately 74 per cent of the world's population and provided 45 per cent of the world gross product, their macroeconomic performance was of particular significance to the world economy. Although increasing South-South cooperation was helping to make the overall growth performance of middle-income countries less volatile, levels had varied. Between 2010 and 2012, middle-income countries in Asia had experienced a growth rate almost double that of middle-income countries in Europe. Moreover, per capita growth had been significantly lower than overall growth for a number of middle-income countries, particularly those with high fertility rates, which, in Africa, had implications for poverty reduction.

17. Countries were also vulnerable to the "middle-income trap", losing competitiveness to lower-income countries but remaining unable to compete with high-income countries. The challenge was to design and implement policies that promoted economic transformation and were inclusive, environmentally friendly and sustainable. High-income countries must provide technological assistance to that end.

18. As for cooperation of the United Nations system with middle-income countries, he said that 79 per cent of countries surveyed considered that the relevance of the United Nations system to country development needs had increased over the previous four years. The most important areas for United Nations assistance to middle-income countries in the next four years had been identified as the environment and sustainable development, water and environmental sanitation, health and poverty reduction.

19. A number of conclusions and recommendations had been made in the report, including the need for a well-defined strategic framework for development cooperation with middle-income countries and the development of a more refined classification system for the development status of countries to take better into account the multidimensional nature of development. Such a system might draw on the methodology used to define the least developed countries and include elements such as income, human development indicators and economic and environmental vulnerability.

20. **Mr. Landveld** (Suriname) said that he would welcome consideration of a new classification system that took development into account, rather than simply income status. Under such a system, the middle-income countries might be renamed “middle developed countries” and viewed as countries aiming to move towards a higher value-added economy. He asked what action would be taken to make available benefits of new technologies, especially ICTs and Internet access, in the development agenda beyond 2015, and which culture-related goals, targets and objectives would be taken into consideration in elaborating that agenda.

21. **Mr. Bandarin** (Assistant Director-General for Culture, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that culture was not only an enabler of development, but a sector in its own right. He was confident that it would be represented in the new development agenda, which had yet to be finalized, including with regard to poverty alleviation, the environment and urban development and management.

22. **Ms. Henderson** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that Internet access would be discussed in the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Member States might also wish to raise the issue during the sixth session of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, to be held in December.

23. **Mr. Kempf** (Global Economic Monitoring Unit, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that, in order to reduce vulnerability to external shocks, middle-income countries had to shift from a resource-oriented economy to a higher value-added economy. As for a classification system, another option would be to maintain the classification according to income level and introduce other variables characterizing economic and social development to create subgroups among middle-income countries. In designing an alternative, it was important to take into account the policymaker's perspective and ensure that the classification served to optimize national policy as well as development policy.

24. **Mr. Pierre** (Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) emphasized the importance of continued analytical and normative work within the United Nations on the definition and classification of development and the validity of measurement tools.

Several initiatives in that regard had been put forward at the regional, national and global levels.

25. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

26. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that globalization presented both opportunities and challenges and should be facilitated by an inclusive multilateral system to ensure that its benefits were shared by everyone. The United Nations, as an inclusive forum on development and globalization, should take action to ensure the proper functioning of its institutional framework for the review and follow-up work in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum. It should also promote greater coordination and interaction with relevant international financial and economic institutions in order to ensure coherence with respect to the post-2015 development agenda.

27. In recent years, globalization had been facilitated by rapid developments in science, technology and innovation. The Group of 77 and China was concerned that many developing countries lacked affordable access to technology, including ICTs, which could play a vital role in development and in facilitating efforts to tackle global challenges. More must be done to enable developing countries to benefit from technological advances and to build capacity for the development, adoption and dissemination of technology. The establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism could help developing countries to bridge the technology gap.

28. Culture was an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, and cultural diversity made a significant contribution to the sustainable development of communities, peoples and nations. He urged the United Nations system to enhance system-wide policies and actions on culture and development, building on the momentum of the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council and of the high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly held in June.

29. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the positive contributions of middle-income countries, particularly their efforts in eradicating poverty. Although the classification of middle-income countries based on per capita income captured significant dimensions of development, it provided an incomplete

picture and masked disparities between and within countries. In view of the special challenges they faced, middle-income countries should continue to receive development assistance from the United Nations system. Such assistance should be more tailored to their needs but should not crowd out or adversely impact the development agenda of less developed countries.

30. **Mr. Rahming** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that globalization and interdependence must be discussed within the context of the post-2015 development agenda with a view to addressing the imbalances experienced by many developing countries. Owing to their small size, open economies, geographical location and climate, the CARICOM States were among the most vulnerable to the negative effects of globalization, including climate change and the economic crisis. Having also experienced illicit side effects of globalization — human trafficking, money laundering and the illegal small arms and light weapons trade — they had had been very vocal in the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Implementation of the Treaty would require an effective and strong multilateral process.

31. CARICOM States were extremely concerned with issues of differentiation and graduation and how they affected access to funding. They welcomed the recognition of the “middle-income trap” in the report of the Secretary-General, particularly since their inherent vulnerabilities to natural disasters meant that any gains made were quickly lost. Noting that the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States were not reflected in the economic classification of countries, CARICOM agreed that classification based solely on average monetary value was in need of refinement and should be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, the international community should support the region’s request for an immediate review of the criteria used by some multilateral financial institutions and development partners concerning the access of small highly indebted middle-income countries to concessional resources.

32. CARICOM called for a fair and equitable global trading regime, which addressed emerging issues of importance to small vulnerable economies and reduced barriers to trade among developing countries. It was extremely concerned about the effects of trade-distorting subsidies, such as those provided to

multinational rum companies, which placed distillers in the region at a blatant disadvantage and threatened the long-term viability of its rum industry. The Governments involved should work with CARICOM to restore the competitive balance to the rum market.

33. Lastly, the United Nations post-2015 development agenda must address the growing inequalities between countries and provide for a strengthened global partnership to ensure that globalization benefited all countries, not just a select few.

34. **Mr. Bame** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that multilateralism should be a key element of the next development framework. He emphasized the importance of collective action to eradicate poverty, in the context of an enabling international environment and an effective global partnership for the mobilization of resources. The United Nations would have a central role to play in that regard.

35. Although technology was essential for implementing the sustainable development goals, it was not receiving due attention in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The technology gap between rich and poor countries was reinforcing inequalities and undermining efforts to eradicate poverty. The international community should assist in technology transfer and in enhancing regional and international cooperation for research and technological development, including through the establishment of a financing mechanism. Africa hoped to work with partners to develop a global framework for technology and skills transfer that took into account the region’s specific characteristics and conditions.

36. While support for middle-income countries was critical, it was important to recognize the significant diversity of those countries and the specific needs of the African States in that category. In addition, African least developed countries should be given appropriate attention within the global development framework. Lastly, the Group of African States recognized the potential of culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development and would consider it as a separate goal or cross-cutting issue in the post-2015 development agenda. The African Group underscored the need to respect cultural diversity and safeguard

traditional knowledge in the global development framework.

37. **Mr. González Soca** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC attached great importance to the intergovernmental debate on middle-income countries, as the majority of its members fell into that category. The Declaration of the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries, held in Costa Rica in June, would contribute to discussions on cooperation with middle-income countries within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda. That agenda must ensure that middle-income countries, which faced huge development challenges, were not considered as “the new donors” or burdened with undue responsibilities. The commitments of developed countries towards developing countries, including with regard to unfulfilled pledges of official development assistance (ODA) and other forms of North-South cooperation, must be expressed unequivocally in the agenda. South-South cooperation should be supported by the international community but should not be regarded as a substitute for North-South cooperation. Furthermore, the agenda should include proposals to ensure that middle-income countries continued to benefit from international development cooperation and that the specific challenges they faced were addressed as they sought to achieve sustainable development.

38. United Nations entities should continue to play a role in addressing the particular needs and goals of all developing countries, including the middle-income countries. The physical presence of the agencies, funds and programmes in the middle-income countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including in upper middle-income countries, would be vital — and consistent with the principle of universality. Action must be undertaken at all levels with a view to establishing an inter-agency plan of action on cooperation with middle-income countries and a coordination mechanism to streamline system-wide activities in that area.

39. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that a renewed global partnership and a more effective and inclusive multilateral system, with the United Nations at its centre, were required to address the challenges of globalization and promote development in the context of globalization and

interdependence. While international trade could be a powerful catalyst for achieving socioeconomic objectives, trade did not always lead to sustainable development. Effective policies were necessary to promote free and fair trade and investment, reduce non-tariff measures and connect producers to global markets. Noting the importance of a rules-based global trading system, he called on States to demonstrate the political will and flexibility needed to achieve an outcome that benefited all countries at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Economic integration through trade and investment had been a major driving force in the ASEAN countries’ growth and economic development; the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 would provide new impetus for the global economic recovery.

40. Trade alone was not sufficient to ensure the inclusiveness and sustainability of development. Coherent institutional and policy support was also key, and the special needs and circumstances of all developing countries should be taken into account. Accordingly, the role of the United Nations and international financial institutions must be further strengthened to assist developing countries and promote global economic governance.

41. Although science, technology and innovation would play a vital role in meeting the challenges of globalization after 2015, many developing countries still lacked affordable access to technology, in particular to ICTs. The international technology regime should complement the United Nations sustainable development goals, and international mechanisms should be developed for effective technology transfer, including among developing countries.

42. A well-defined strategic framework for development cooperation among the middle-income countries and improved coordination with the United Nations system would be vital. Cooperation should focus on redesigning the development strategies of those countries with a view to avoiding the middle-income trap and ensuring sustained economic growth. More activities should be undertaken in key areas of cooperation, such as the innovative economy, improvement of physical and human capital, and research and development.

43. ASEAN recognized the important role of culture for the achievement of sustainable development and

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and commended the efforts of the United Nations, including through UNESCO, to develop the capacities of Member States in that regard. The World Culture Forum to be held in Indonesia in November would enrich the debate on the impact of culture on sustainable development.

44. Lastly, ASEAN supported the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and trusted that the linkages between migration and sustainable development would be more widely recognized by the international community and adequately reflected in relevant post-2015 thematic priorities.

45. **Ms. Choudhry** (India) said that, although globalization had created wealth and opportunities, it had been accompanied by a high degree of instability and insecurity. Moreover, the benefits of globalization had not been equitably shared and its costs had been unevenly borne, as the global financial and economic crisis had shown. The effective management of globalization was an essential element for the post-2015 development agenda. In that connection, she highlighted the need for open, democratic and participatory global governance structures and the importance of reforming multilateral institutions to give developing countries an enhanced voice in decision-making structures.

46. The management of the global commons, so as to balance the needs and responsibilities of nations at different stages of development and ensure the equitable sharing of resources, was a key aspect of globalization. Countries must make every effort to embrace a culture of frugality and reduce wastage.

47. International migration was an abiding feature of globalization and must be managed so as to maximize the benefits for both developing and developed countries. Lastly, the post-2015 development agenda must remain focused on the promotion of sustained and inclusive economic growth with the eradication of poverty as its overarching objective. In order to harness the positive forces of globalization, that agenda must seek to create a supportive international economic environment, enhanced aid and investment flows, a supportive multilateral trading system and a strengthened framework for the transfer of technology.

48. In conclusion, she said that India fully supported a culture-sensitive and inclusive approach to

development that celebrated diversity and promoted mutual respect.

49. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that globalization had increased market access for Malaysian exports but had also had negative effects. Globalization should be managed so as to address the specific needs of the most vulnerable countries and peoples and ensure that those countries remained a central focus of the global development framework.

50. Domestic efforts to promote socioeconomic development must be supported by an enabling international environment. Countries lacking the economic strength and institutional capacity, notably the least developed countries, should be supported by the international economic system. Furthermore, decision-making at the international level should be more democratic and participatory to give developing countries a greater voice. Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth was essential to address the negative impacts of globalization. Developing countries would also benefit from capacity-building through training and technology transfer, trade reform through the immediate completion of the Doha Round, and the creation of an enabling international environment, notably through the reform of the international financial system.

51. Malaysia was endeavouring to strengthen science, technology and innovation in view of their importance for the implementation of its Vision 2020. The new national policy for science, technology and innovation for 2013-2020 cut across all sectors of the economy and had been formulated within the context of various transformation programmes, with the ultimate goal of transforming Malaysia into a scientifically advanced country.

52. Lastly, the current global institutional development framework must become more responsive to rapid global changes and provide unified, multidimensional responses to globalization. Malaysia called for a universal and genuine partnership among equal partners that took into account the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, solidarity, national ownership, mutual respect and global responsibility.

53. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the gap between the least developed countries and other developing countries had widened with globalization. In order to prevent such inequalities from worsening

and mainstream the least developed countries into the global interdependent world, development partners must fulfil their commitments to those countries in areas such as market access, trade facilitation and migration. The United Nations should also play a critical role in promoting tangible development in the context of globalization and interdependence.

54. Bangladesh was coping well with globalization. Science, technology and innovation played an important role in its national development strategy, in particular through the “Digital Bangladesh” initiative. Through the use of appropriate technology, Bangladesh had almost achieved self-sufficiency in food and had reduced poverty by more than half. However, many of the least developed countries were lagging far behind in the area of science and technology, and required support from the international community. The technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism would make an important contribution, and he called on all development partners, other developing countries, the private sector and entrepreneurs to facilitate the technological leapfrogging of the least developed countries with a view to improving productive capacity.

55. Recalling that the Language Movement of 1952 had gradually evolved into a political struggle for autonomy and independence, he said that culture had been integral to Bangladesh’s birth as a nation. Culture was an issue that cut across the entire spectrum of the sustainable development agenda. Bangladesh would welcome any constructive suggestions on formulating an integrated development goal involving culture within the post-2015 development framework.

56. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra Velásquez** (Peru) said that culture was an important cross-cutting issue that could accelerate the achievement of universally agreed development goals, including by changing patterns of consumption and production. Drawing attention to the importance of recognizing cultural diversity and incorporating culture into development policies and strategies, he welcomed the progress made in integrating culture into the United Nations development agenda and referred to the recommendations in the Hangzhou Declaration on placing culture at the heart of sustainable development policies. However, much remained to be done with respect to the role of culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development. A group of friends of culture and development had been

established at a September meeting with the Director-General of UNESCO. The Committee’s adoption of a resolution on culture and sustainable development would facilitate the integration of culture into the new development agenda.

57. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that events in 2013, including the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries, held in Costa Rica, and the Regional Conference on the Middle-Income Countries’ Perspective on Sustainable Development in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Eastern and Southern Europe, held in Belarus, had drawn attention to the need for continued assistance to those countries from United Nations entities. As two thirds of the world’s poor lived in middle-income countries, success in achieving the MDGs would, to a large extent, depend on the progress made by those countries. Growing internal inequalities — caused by uneven globalization within the country, and increased poverty — posed a particular problem for middle-income countries. Middle-income countries were also particularly vulnerable to external factors; the global financial and economic crisis had resulted in a significant decline in their exports, and in foreign investment and credit, increasing the long-term debt of those countries.

58. More must be done to promote a systematic approach to cooperation with middle-income countries, including through the establishment of a comprehensive United Nations action plan, as called for in the Declaration of the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries. Such a plan should focus on achieving a more coordinated approach within the United Nations system towards middle-income countries and establishing clear guidelines on how the United Nations system should interact with such a diverse group of countries. He hoped that the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries would make a significant contribution to that end.

59. **Mr. Zhao Xinli** (China) said that China welcomed the recent work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Scientific and technological innovation was a strategic pillar of the “Chinese Dream”, which sought to revitalize the nation and raise economic activity and overall national strength. The international community should prioritize scientific and technological innovation in the post-2015 development agenda as a means of addressing

global challenges. China supported the initiatives of the Secretary-General to promote scientific and technological innovation, including through the establishment of a United Nations mechanism for that purpose.

60. The international community must make every effort to use scientific and technological innovation as a means of economic and social development. Actionable goals, with a leading role for scientific and technological innovation, including ICTs, should be identified in the post-2015 development agenda. The international community must enhance coordination in the area of scientific and technological innovation and endeavour to build the capacity of developing countries in that regard, including through the provision of increased technical assistance and the fulfilment of relevant commitments. More should be done to promote greater openness and cooperation in the area of scientific and technological innovation and establish a balanced and efficient mechanism for technology transfer and the protection of intellectual property rights. In that connection, unnecessary import and export restrictions on advanced technologies should be reduced or removed. Lastly, as a major developing country, China remained committed to opening up its scientific and technological sector and deepening international cooperation in order to overcome common challenges.

61. **Ms. Camacho** (Mexico) said that inclusion should be a central premise of the development agenda beyond 2015 to facilitate the active participation of the most vulnerable countries. Measurement of poverty and inequality should go beyond gross domestic product to include other elements, reflecting socioeconomic and structural realities, including those of the middle-income countries. Such an approach would serve as a basis for the identification of priorities for cooperation with middle-income countries with a view to eradicating poverty, improving governance, reducing economic and social inequalities, and building the capacity of some of those countries to provide South-South cooperation.

62. Science, technology and innovation at all levels, as well as culture, played an important role in addressing development challenges. The establishment of 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, which Mexico encouraged, would raise awareness of the benefits of light-based technologies in a variety of fields, harness the power of

the United Nations system to bring together relevant actors from all over the world and foster cooperation between the scientific community and development policymakers. It would also help to ensure that the development agenda beyond 2015 was multidimensional, considered the impact of technology on development and built national capacities in the areas of innovation, coverage and access.

63. **Mr. Traoré** (Senegal) said that, as recognized in General Assembly resolution [65/1](#) on keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, culture contributed to the enrichment of humankind and was an important factor for economic growth, social integration and poverty alleviation. Against a backdrop of persistent global economic and social challenges, development paradigms must be revised from the perspective of preserving and promoting culture.

64. He praised the placement of multilingualism, the dialogue on culture and the alliance of civilizations at the heart of the United Nations development agenda. He drew particular attention to the support his country was receiving from UNESCO, including in connection with two important projects, which had a cultural focus and a direct impact on local development. Lastly, he hoped that the envisaged high-level meeting on culture and development to be held before 2015 would result in culture being accorded its rightful place in the development process

65. **Mr. Okafor** (Nigeria) said that, although globalization had created enormous opportunities and benefits, it presented a number of challenges that should be addressed in the ongoing discussions of the post-2015 development agenda. The linkages between globalization, poverty eradication and sustainable development must be taken into account. The United Nations, as an inclusive forum on development and globalization, should continue to strengthen international cooperation and promote multilateral coordination and coherence in the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

66. Noting the importance of science, technology and innovation for globalization, he said that the international community should address persistent obstacles to technology and innovation capacity in developing countries, including through the promotion of South-South cooperation. While countries of the

South should attempt to attract more foreign direct investment in technology-oriented sectors, the real challenge of mobilizing sufficient financial resources for the technological advancement of developing countries should be tackled in the post-2015 development agenda . He highlighted the need to incorporate the gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policymaking, and called on the global community to promote pro-poor innovation, in particular agricultural innovation that would be economically empowering.

67. The crucial role of culture in achieving sustainable development could not be underestimated. Globalization must seek to preserve diversity and strengthen local development, taking into account traditional values and identities. Noting that industrialized nations had taken advantage of trade liberalization to the detriment of other countries, he reaffirmed Nigeria's support for the expeditious conclusion of the Doha Round and for common but differentiated rule-setting. A universal, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system would promote the economic growth and advancement of developing countries. Capacity-building in their non-tradable as well as their export-oriented sectors would also be important.

68. Nigeria was making great strides towards global economic integration through its privatization policy, and was playing a pivotal role in the efforts of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to tackle underdevelopment, unemployment, poverty and corruption. It remained a strong advocate of South-South cooperation, had requested support to operationalize the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, and was engaged in a scientific and technical exchange programme for professionals from African countries.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.