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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 7 October 2015, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Logar ..... (Slovenia)  
*later:* Mr. Krapp (Vice-Chair) ..... (Germany)

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General debate (*continued*)

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

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Shcherbakov** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the world still faced difficulties related to the global economic and financial crisis, and that poverty, inequality and increasing economic, social and environmental challenges must be addressed in order to help developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, to achieve sustainable development and to target the specific challenges of middle-income countries.

2. The resolutions adopted by the Second Committee at the current session must address the structural challenges of the international economy and reform of the international system. They must also consider the development challenges of developing countries and provide political and operational guidance, thereby facilitating the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in order to eradicate poverty in all its dimensions.

3. It was critical for the high-level political forum on sustainable development to provide political recommendations and guidance for Member States and the United Nations system, thereby promoting system-wide coherence and coordination in line with the ambitious mandate of the 2030 Agenda. Linkages between the forum, the United Nations regional commissions and other regional entities must be strengthened in order to deliver relevant outcomes, provide opportunities for peer learning and create adequate policy space so that sustainable development policies could be converted into concrete national action. The participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in that process should also be recognized.

4. As financing for development was crucial to implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, CELAC supported a truly global partnership for development that built upon the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). To

be truly effective, however, the implementation of all those agreements must also be people-centred and human rights-based.

5. Sustainability and harmony with nature were central to all development actions. CELAC would therefore actively support a legally binding agreement arising from the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with a view to achieving concrete commitments in the essential areas of mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and transparency. The new development framework must also be universally applicable, taking different national realities, capacities and levels of development into account, while also respecting national policies and priorities.

6. CELAC called on the United Nations system, in consultation with the international statistical bodies, to work to measure sustainable development in a transparent way that went beyond per capita income, including by building on existing initiatives and by supporting statistical capacities in developing countries. Such measurements should recognize poverty in all its dimensions and incorporate all forms of domestic output as well as any structural gaps.

7. The implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda required the unequivocal commitment of the international community. Developed countries could contribute by honouring their longstanding official development assistance (ODA) commitments, including by establishing binding timelines for delivering on those commitments and on other forms of North-South cooperation. In that context, ODA was seen as a means of leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries.

8. South-South cooperation, which had a particular and differentiated role to play, notably in capacity-building and in sharing knowledge and best practices across the global South, should be supported by the international community, including through triangular cooperation. However, such forms of cooperation were complements to, not substitutes for, North-South cooperation.

9. The internationally agreed development goals must be linked to a genuine global partnership for development and to effective means of implementation, consisting of a mix of financial and non-financial resources, technology development and transfer, as

well as capacity-building. Implementation must be supported by developed countries taking concrete action, including through quantitative time-bound financial targets in addition to those established for ODA, and in accordance with the principles and universal scope of the 2030 Agenda.

10. Private engagement in development partnerships should complement, but never replace, the historical ODA commitments of developed countries. Similarly, innovative financing mechanisms, which could help developing countries to mobilize additional development resources on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis, should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries without placing an undue burden on them. Such mechanisms should neither substitute for, nor have a negative impact on, the level of traditional sources of development financing, including ODA.

11. International cooperation must take into account the different development stages, priorities, circumstances and capabilities of developing countries, while reaffirming that every State retained full permanent sovereignty over its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. An enabling international environment to support national efforts was the best way to achieve poverty eradication. In that regard, CELAC rejected the application of unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law and urged States to refrain from such actions.

12. The recently launched Technology Facilitation Mechanism was welcome as it would contribute towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and help developing countries, especially the poorest, to tap into the benefits of modern science, technology and innovation. CELAC looked forward to hearing about further progress regarding the Mechanism's implementation.

13. Although significant progress had been made through debt relief programmes to poor countries, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, more effective work was needed to address the highly speculative activities of vulture funds. CELAC therefore called for the international financial system to cooperate constructively with the United Nations to enhance the transparency, supervision, regulation and good governance of the international financial system in order to ensure international stability.

14. CELAC expressed its support for all national and regional initiatives aimed at ending hunger; improving agricultural development, food security and nutrition in the region; ensuring the right to adequate food for all; empowering women; prioritizing family farming; and ensuring that regional food systems were sustainable and resilient.

15. Development must be addressed holistically, as piecemeal approaches to poverty diagnosis and reduction, as well as the prioritizing of certain dimensions of development to the exclusion of others, distorted the real situation of middle-income countries. CELAC continued to advocate for the establishment of a comprehensive action plan for cooperation with middle-income countries, and for developed partners to address the specific development needs of those countries, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Any comprehensive strategy for global poverty relief must include appropriate support for middle-income countries, not only because they represented almost 70 per cent of the world's population, but also because ignoring middle-income countries could cause a reduction of regional programme activities and the reversal of development gains. The presence of the United Nations development system should be maintained in all regions that needed it, while respecting the principle of universality and the special needs of all countries.

16. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that his delegation welcomed the fact that poverty eradication was one of the main goals of the 2030 Agenda, and that the three pillars of sustainable development had been reflected in a balanced manner therein. However, he stressed that the Sustainable Development Goals must not be changed in any way in the course of establishing the related indicators.

17. His delegation also welcomed the addition of economic goals, in particular for shared sustainable growth and the promotion of infrastructure and industrialization, which marked an important step beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). National economic empowerment, industrialization and the achievement of shared, inclusive growth were the best way to eradicate poverty. An enabling international environment in terms of trade and market access, debt resolution, investment promotion and effective international cooperation for development were also critical for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

18. To ensure national ownership and the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the new agenda must take into account varying national development levels, strategies and priorities. Given existing development gaps, it would be unrealistic to ask all States to achieve the same outcomes. Moreover, developed countries must shoulder greater responsibility in the global partnership for development.

19. In the light of the new development agenda, any changes necessary to the Committee's agenda must primarily take into account the concerns and interests of developing countries and should be focused on the means of implementation. Restricting the Committee's agenda might contravene the principle of leaving no one behind, as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda.

20. In an increasingly interdependent world, the global partnership for development and the means of implementation for the new agenda were fundamental for social, economic and even political stability. ODA remained indispensable for sustainable development financing, in particular for least developed countries, most of which were in Africa. Furthermore, with the adoption of the new development agenda, international trade must fully play its role as a driver of growth and sustainable development in developing countries.

21. The issue of migration also required an integrated approach from the international community, which should coordinate and strengthen regional and international cooperation in order to maximize the benefits of migration for development and for the protection of human rights.

22. Climate change continued to pose a major threat to sustainable development efforts and could threaten the very survival of some countries. Member States must therefore adopt an international instrument at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference, including a significant commitment from developed countries to limit the negative impact of climate change. Moreover, the agreement reached must be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, given that developing countries were the most affected by climate change but were the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions. Financial commitments from development partners, in addition to traditional sources of ODA, would be crucial in helping developing countries to implement their strategies to combat climate change.

23. His delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/319 on sovereign debt restructuring processes, in view of the need for such an international mechanism that took into consideration States' sustainable development needs and their ability to service their debts.

24. South-South cooperation was increasingly relevant as a means to achieve development, based on the principles of partnership, equality and mutual interests. At the current crucial stage of implementing the new sustainable development agenda, such cooperation needed to be strengthened and consolidated more than ever.

25. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia) said that three important agreements marked the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations and expressed a new vision for development: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the future climate change agreement to be reached at the Paris Climate Change Conference. The success of the new agenda would depend on its implementation, for which countries were primarily responsible. However, the Committee's work would be necessary to facilitate and provide guidance for implementation at the national level.

26. In that context, the recently launched Technology Facilitation Mechanism must be operationalized so that it could generate the necessary transformations to significantly scale up technology development, transfer and dissemination, especially in developing countries.

27. His delegation was committed to eradicating poverty in all its dimensions, reducing inequality and leaving no one behind. Although more than half of all Member States were middle-income countries, that classification was based solely on per capita income and was thus inadequate. Middle-income countries suffered from structural gaps that hindered sustained and equitable growth. Despite the group's transformative potential, it was the only one without a specific coordination strategy. It was therefore time to establish a United Nations plan of action for cooperation with middle-income countries.

28. Urbanization should play a transformative role, as emphasized during the World Urban Forum in 2014 and reiterated in the 2030 Agenda, with a view to building safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. His delegation looked forward in that regard to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito in 2016.

29. While work on a legally binding agreement on climate change was primarily the purview of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Second Committee must nevertheless ensure that the topic was addressed in a truly cross-cutting manner throughout the sustainable development agenda.

30. Furthermore, the success of the 2030 Agenda required an international enabling environment that supported national and regional efforts. However, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda did not meet the level of ambition, specificity or detail required to level the playing field and effectively support implementation of the new agenda.

31. The United Nations development system must also be properly equipped to support not only the effective, coherent and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but also its strategic planning, implementation and follow-up. The resolution to be adopted at the current session would make a decisive contribution toward ensuring that such aspects were reflected in the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

32. Lastly, follow-up on implementation would require appropriate measurement tools, such as the development of global indicators to complement regional and national ones. In order to measure the achievements made, it would be crucial to support developing countries by building their data collection and analysis capacities.

33. **Ms. Camacho** (Mexico) said that by adopting the 2030 Agenda world leaders had committed to achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals that were inclusive, people-centred and focused on eliminating poverty in all its dimensions. The financing and resource mobilization commitments agreed upon in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda complemented the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

34. The Committee's current session was especially important, since the Organization's work would need to adapt and rise to the global development challenges and new commitments. It was also an opportunity to work out the means and resources necessary to achieve the Goals.

35. The 2030 Agenda was a solid platform that reflected a delicate balance and, to some extent, the diversity of development models and national

capacities. That new agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals reflected an integrated vision of the three pillars of sustainable development and provided a much clearer picture of the transformation that would be required to eliminate the structural gaps of inequality, multidimensional poverty and environmental degradation. Her delegation would therefore promote substantive discussions within the Committee on cross-cutting sustainable development issues from an integrated, coherent and value-added perspective.

36. Her delegation would continue to support socioeconomic inclusion, based on the protection and promotion of all human rights of such vulnerable groups as migrants, indigenous peoples, children, persons with disabilities and women. It also prioritized agreements on protecting biodiversity, combating climate change and reducing desertification. Other priority issues included middle-income country perspectives, South-South and triangular cooperation, the rule of law as an enabler of sustainable development and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to reduce the digital divide.

37. The Committee's added value should be to consolidate substantive and operational guidance in order to fulfil the major commitments made under the three pillars of sustainable development. It should complement and enrich the follow-up and review framework of both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, primarily by means of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

38. While the success of the new Sustainable Development Goals would depend on the combined actions of Governments, civil society and the private sector, the proactive attitude of Mexico's young people would also be necessary in order to secure real development change in the country. As youth should be at the centre of the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, her delegation had included four youth representatives.

39. Finally, the Committee should work to strengthen a universal and integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda and all relevant sustainable development processes. It was the appropriate forum to exchange ideas on development issues with a view to implementing an agenda that was centred on poverty eradication, the promotion of human rights, economic

transformation, social inclusion and responsible environmental management.

40. **Mr. Shaboot** (Iraq) said that following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the primary challenge would be to mobilize the resources necessary for its implementation. In addition to financial resources, that would require the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technology, strategic national and international investment, and a shift towards new patterns of consumption and production that steered clear of the fluctuations and structural weakness of the old one-sided economy. Previous commitments to invest in the infrastructure and services of developing States remained indispensable, particularly in those suffering from security problems and terrorism. Institutional integration and well-defined mandates would help development agencies to eliminate inconsistencies in reporting and to produce accurate assessments of the needs of developing States.

41. The Rio+20 outcome document should be the basic reference for restructuring the global financial and economic system. Monetary policy should take into account an overall balance of economic activities and social justice. Speculation in basic commodities, in particular oil and gas, needed to be reined in by legal regulation. His Government was seeking to expand its tax base in a way that took into consideration the weaker and poorer segments of society, with a focus on eliminating corruption and reassuring citizens that taxes were being used to provide necessary services. Countries with expertise in such matters should provide assistance to other countries.

42. The new climate change regime to be adopted at the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015 needed to bear in mind the needs of both present and future generations. Combating climate change should not be used as a pretext to place unilateral tariffs on commodities originating in developing countries. Conditions for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by countries with observer status should be eased, so that they could be integrated more speedily into global value chains. Iraq stood firmly behind the right of the Palestinian people to a State based on the 1967 borders and rejected efforts to Judaize the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the third holiest site in Islam. The international community and the Security Council should implement resolutions requiring Israel to end its occupation, which was the only one of its kind in the modern world.

43. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said while his delegation welcomed the 2030 Agenda, greater efforts were needed in the Second Committee to comprehensively and collectively address it in and coordinate manner, especially through the United Nations system.

44. The Islamic Republic of Iran had participated at the highest level in the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 and would work to implement the 2030 Agenda at all national, regional and international levels. His country had designed its national policies on the basis of a balanced approach towards the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Since 1992, the multi-sectoral Iranian Committee on Sustainable Development had played a pivotal role in advancing the national development agenda in accordance with the global agenda. His delegation was determined to facilitate cooperation with the public and private sectors at the national, regional and international levels in order to intensify its national response to the global agenda.

45. Western Asia was not only facing hotter climate conditions and the challenges of continued drought, it was also grappling with the scourge of terrorism and extremist violence that had damaged the environment and forced countries to spend their national resources on fighting insecurity rather than on promoting sustainable development.

46. The nuclear deal agreed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the five plus one group had established conditions conducive to regional and international cooperation, including in the field of environmental preservation. His country was eager to cooperate with its neighbours to promote regional sustainable development and resilience to environmental threats by actively and constructively engaging with other countries in environmental diplomacy, technology transfer and joint scientific activities.

47. Developing countries still faced a number of development challenges, which mainly stemmed from global economic imbalances and downturns. Poverty eradication should therefore continue to be the agenda's core objective, although developing countries still struggled to respond to the challenges of food insecurity, health, water scarcity and climate change. To that end, more ambitious, fully inclusive and non-discriminatory provisions were needed for

implementation, particularly with respect to financing and the transfer of technology and related know-how with a view to achieving a meaningful global partnership.

48. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Committee, which had a crucial role to play in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, should hold its discussions based on the principles of transparency, common but differentiated responsibilities, the right of all to development, the avoidance of politicization and double standards, and respect for the cultural specificities of all States.

49. Like other developing States, the Arab States suffered from the impact of climate change, desertification, trade restrictions and the failure of the developed States to live up to their commitments. However, the Arab region was also facing unique additional challenges that were setting it back by decades. His country in particular was suffering from terrorism and extremism that threatened to obliterate all of its development gains.

50. Certain States persisted in using unilateral economic measures to put political pressure on certain States of the region. That included the illegal sanctions imposed by the United States in 2003 and by the European Union in 2011, which had contributed to mass migrations and obstructed humanitarian relief efforts. Despite dozens of resolutions and documents, including the 2030 Agenda itself, which had identified denial of the right to self-determination as a major obstacle to development, the residents of the Syrian Golan and the Palestinian people continued to be deprived of their rights, sovereignty and natural resources. The Israeli occupation was also providing support to the Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist groups in the area of separation, in violation of the separation of forces agreement. Stemming the drain of human capital from the Arab region required addressing the foreign interference that was its primary cause.

51. **Ms. Karabaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that her country had the political will to uphold the strong commitments recently undertaken at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 and would continue striving to achieve all of the outstanding MDGs. However, comprehensive sustainable development would not be possible by

2030 unless the donor community also fulfilled its financing for development and technology transfer pledges. Gradual and sustainable economic development would be crucial for reducing poverty and enhancing people's wellbeing. Kyrgyzstan had a promising green model for economic growth, underpinned by hydroelectric power. The construction of more hydropower facilities, in particular, would create new jobs, provide energy and food security and also expand her country's export capacities.

52. As a mountainous and landlocked country, with all the development constraints that entailed, Kyrgyzstan attached great importance to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and had already begun to implement its own national action plan within that framework. In that regard, she stressed the importance of continued financial support from the international community.

53. Climate change was a central cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development. While Kyrgyzstan would do its utmost to reduce its low greenhouse gas emissions still further, it was increasingly vulnerable to the negative impact of that phenomenon on its environment, on human health and on all areas of economic activity. Her country therefore strongly supported the adoption in December 2015 of an international legally binding instrument that would lay the foundation for a more responsible approach to the global environment.

54. Uranium tailings, many in seismically active areas, remained a serious transboundary problem in Kyrgyzstan. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and General Assembly resolution 68/218 on the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia provided a good basis for reducing the impact of natural disasters, both in Kyrgyzstan and in the region as a whole.

55. According to the World Bank, Kyrgyzstan had graduated from the category of low-income countries in 2014. Nevertheless, the collapse of global crude oil prices, confrontations over sanctions and a devaluation of national currencies in the region had significantly undermined opportunities for sustainable development and had increased the debt burden. Collectively agreed measures would be necessary to resolve such issues in a continued spirit of partnership, as demonstrated

during the course of the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda.

56. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which not only reaffirmed the three dimensions of sustainable development enshrined in the MDGs, including the global partnership for development, but also the main principles and mechanisms for follow-up and review of activities. That achievement was largely due to the open and constructive dialogue held on those issues within the Committee. The United Nations must now further prioritize the main Sustainable Development Goal of poverty eradication, including within the framework of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) and through strengthened inter-agency coordination.

57. His delegation looked forward to an ongoing dialogue on the issue of operational activities for development, including with a view to developing a common vision of the role and functions of the United Nations development system with respect to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Such a dialogue would make a significant contribution towards preparations for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operation activities for development of the United Nations system in 2016.

58. The new agenda's means of implementation should focus on concrete aspects related to implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Particular attention should be paid to liberalizing trade in goods and services, providing access to cutting-edge science and technology and reducing the debt burden of countries, including through sovereign debt restructuring and the lifting of unilateral economic sanctions as a means of exerting political pressure.

59. The United Nations should engage in further dialogue to establish a fair global economic order and to better manage global development processes. In that context, more consistent efforts were needed to reform the international financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, by increasing the number of leadership positions within those organizations for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

60. Greater regional integration remained a high priority in order to resolve common problems satisfactorily, and the 2030 Agenda opened up a unique opportunity for indivisible socioeconomic

development. However, that would only be possible when integration associations began cooperating under mutually beneficial conditions and not in isolation. As a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, the Russian Federation supported the harmonious development of the various integration associations in the East and in the West.

61. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remained the main platform for considering the issue of climate change and the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference would culminate with the adoption of a new climate agreement. However, since the 2030 Agenda called for comprehensive climate solutions, the time had also come to give an additional impetus to discussions within the Committee on such issues as conserving biodiversity and combating desertification.

62. Such a historic moment was perhaps also the time to improve the Committee's own working methods. Its overburdened agenda could be streamlined by reviewing the periodicity of some resolutions and by clustering some agenda items. That work must however be carried out openly and respect the interests of all countries.

63. **Ms. Turk** (Lebanon) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was only the start of a long journey to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The focus must now shift towards providing adequate means of implementation through a revitalized global partnership that drew on public and private financial resources, built capacities and facilitated the transfer of technology to developing countries. The United Nations and its specialized agencies and programmes would play a vital role in supporting Governments during the implementation phase, by providing them with the necessary expertise and resources, as well as a central role in the follow-up global phase, through the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

64. One of the main tasks ahead was determining how best to incorporate the contents of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda into the Committee's agenda items, and eventually into the language of the different General Assembly resolutions addressing sustainable development. The outcomes of the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference and the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit would also be of great importance.



65. Lebanon aimed to move towards low-emission and climate resilient development in order to ensure a sustainable future for its population, with adaptation as a priority. The consequences of climate change were predicted to put pressure on national water security and produce knock-on effects in sectors such as agriculture, where around 70 per cent of available water was used for irrigation. Hence, her Government was working on a national sustainable development strategy that focused on adaptation and would commit to an unconditional target of 15 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and a target of 30 per cent reduction upon the provision of additional international support.

66. The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit would address the biggest forced population displacement witnessed since the end of the Second World War, stemming mainly from the ongoing crises in Iraq and in the Syrian Arab Republic. The latter had had a devastating impact on Lebanon's security, development, economic activity and environment. It had also increased inequalities and overstretched national capacities in the areas of healthcare, education, energy, water, sanitation and security. Unfortunately, the international community, which had initially approached the issue from a purely humanitarian funding perspective, had not provided sufficient resources to deal with a disaster of such magnitude and length. While the international community had praised neighbouring countries for keeping their borders open, it had not given them appropriate development assistance or shared the burden in terms of financing and resettlement. The refugee crisis currently facing Europe was a direct consequence of that inadequate response.

67. Accordingly, her delegation supported the recognition in the 2030 Agenda of forcibly displaced persons as a result of spiralling conflict, violent extremism and terrorism, as well as the need to strengthen the resilience of host communities of refugees, particularly in developing countries. It also welcomed the recognition in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the need for coherent developmental and humanitarian financing to manage and mitigate complex emergencies.

68. The marine oil spill caused by Israel's destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant in July 2006 continued to impact human health, economic growth and efforts to achieve sustainable

development in Lebanon. The inability to contain that spill in its early critical stages, due to the Israeli air and marine military blockade at the time, had led to prolonged and adverse effects. Lebanon would therefore ask the General Assembly to adopt a resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores, requesting Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation for the cost of repairing the environmental damage caused by the oil spill, which amounted to US\$ 856.4 million in 2014.

69. **Mr. Al-Kuwari** (Qatar) said that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals over the next 15 years would require a global partnership that took into account countries' different capacities while respecting their priorities and policies as well as the environment. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided a firm foundation for such a partnership, and was a qualitative addition to the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration.

70. Qatar, which had been at the forefront of South-South cooperation, had established the Global Dryland Alliance to combat desertification and conserve water resources. His country's Vision 2030 development plan also aimed to transform Qatar into a developed country. However, since a transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system was integral to a development-enabling economic environment, overcoming the stalemate in the Doha Round remained of the utmost importance.

71. The year 2014 had seen the largest number of Palestinian fatalities since 1967. Actions such as the war against Gaza constituted a violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. His delegation reiterated its support for the sovereignty of the Palestinian people over Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the sovereignty of the residents of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. Israel must comply with its obligations under international law.

72. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that while the past 70 years had been particularly important, marking the emergence of a new international system, in many ways it was questionable whether humankind was in fact better off today than seven decades earlier. Nevertheless, the historic milestone just reached should inspire a new commitment to act in the interests of sustainable development and for the betterment of humanity and the world.

73. To that end, the Committee must build on the work contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals contained in the new development agenda had the capacity to end poverty and hunger, protect the planet and ensure that all human beings enjoyed prosperous and fulfilling lives. The requisite political commitment must now be demonstrated for the full and effective implementation of the agenda.

74. While implementation of the MDGs globally had not been without its shortcomings, especially where financing and technology transfer mechanisms were concerned, the Goals had advanced the lives of billions. Henceforth, a new commitment to those mechanisms would play a pivotal role in the success of the 2030 Agenda, which must focus on implementation and on strengthening cooperation between developed and developing countries through a successful global partnership.

75. Sri Lanka had seen notable success in achieving the MDGs, including halving poverty at the national level seven years before deadline, achieving gender equality at all levels of education and significantly reducing child and maternal mortality rates. While the highest priority had been given to combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases such as malaria, considerable progress had also been made in the area of environmental sustainability by meeting the target for access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, by stabilizing carbon dioxide emissions and by maintaining a negligible carbon footprint of 0.6 tonnes per capita per year.

76. Sri Lanka would prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals that were most relevant to its existing national development goals and was already integrating them into national plans and policies. In so doing, it was particularly focusing on the areas of poverty alleviation, food security, energy, education, income disparity reduction, urban development, youth and ICTs. In addition, national foreign policy would seek to promote economic cooperation with the global North and South, particularly through trade and investment.

77. During the transition from the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals, the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, which did not have access to concessionary development financing, should be addressed. One main challenge for

Sri Lanka in implementing the new agenda would be reduced access to ODA following its graduation to middle-income status. Middle-income countries must continue to have access to such concessionary finance throughout their development.

78. An enabling environment, including good governance, human rights, justice and the rule of law, would be critical for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Sri Lanka had recently adopted important constitutional amendments to support good governance and the rule of law in order to create such an environment. A new, democratic era had dawned in Sri Lanka on 8 January 2015, marking a clear break from the past. The country's social and human development approach was now founded on pluralism, reconciliation and sustainable development. Accordingly, his delegation was committed to developing a proactive and practical programme to further ensure peace, security and human rights.

79. **Mr. Çevik** (Turkey) said that the combined outcomes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference would establish the framework of the global development agenda for the next 15 years. It was now important for the 2030 Agenda to build upon the achievements of the MDGs while adopting a more comprehensive, ambitious and truly universal approach that left no one behind.

80. Since nations were deeply interconnected, achieving sustainable development in all its three dimensions was important for developed and developing countries alike. However, the world continued to face complex and interlinked challenges whose burden was felt most acutely by the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited resources. That was particularly true of least developed countries, which had benefited the least from globalization but had suffered the most from its adverse effects on growth, employment and social welfare. All country groups must be better integrated into the world economy, creating a more inclusive and equitable global partnership marked by the engagement of all advanced, emerging and developing countries on the basis of mutual respect and benefit.

81. Given the need for the international community to address the vulnerabilities and specific challenges of countries in special situations, Turkey supported the

2030 Agenda's emphasis on scaling up assistance to them; stressed the importance of the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action; looked forward to hosting the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in Antalya in June 2016; and stood ready to host the proposed Technology Bank dedicated to least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations.

82. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were a *sine qua non* for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. Similarly, improving food security by reducing food loss and waste was another critical factor for poverty reduction and could provide additional resources to feed two billion people. In that context, his delegation welcomed the fact that 2016 would be celebrated as the International Year of Pulses.

83. A climate resilient future was a better future for the planet. His delegation therefore stressed that, in determining how to address climate change collectively beyond 2020, the international community must reach a consensus at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

84. While the 2030 Agenda rightly underlined the relevance of international migration to the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, the Sustainable Development Goals would not be achieved without first addressing complex humanitarian emergencies. Hence, international cooperation must strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, enhance burden-sharing and place a greater emphasis both on the humanitarian-development nexus and on creating the conditions under which well-being and prosperity were within reach. In that context, the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 would provide a unique opportunity to assess coherence between the humanitarian and development sectors.

85. **Mr. Ramirez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda marked the commitment of all nations to create a more sustainable development model. The Committee's work must help to address major economic imbalances and social injustices with a view to designing a new economic order that was better for the planet and for humankind.

86. While economic exchange among countries was essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it had been proven that market liberalization had only strengthened major transnational corporations that imposed unfair trade practices on countries. A fair trading system was therefore needed, based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, solidarity, mutual benefit and, above all, special and differential treatment. It was also imperative for that system to include the universally accepted principle of justice, whereby everyone received what they needed and gave according to their capabilities.

87. The sovereign management of natural resources was an effective and legitimate instrument for the development of nations, whose interests must always prevail over those of harmful transnational corporations. In that regard, the United Nations and its specialized agencies should work towards eliminating any related mechanisms that perpetuated unfairness and poverty.

88. The international financial system, which had proven to be completely inefficient and contrary to the development of nations, required a profound review, with speculative financial mechanisms, such as vulture funds, deserving particular condemnation. Most countries supported General Assembly resolution 69/319 on sovereign debt restructuring processes. His country also supported the establishment of a legal framework to address the issue of financial mechanisms in a fair and constructive way.

89. Peace among nations was essential for economic development. As a consequence of war, it would be many years before the martyred peoples of Northern Africa and the Middle East could rebuild their countries. Wars, invasions, injustices and disrespect for the sovereignty of nations must cease; so too must sanctions, nuclear threats and the arms race. Development could not occur while there was war.

90. Capitalism, which was based on selfishness, greed and dispossession, was an unsustainable system since it promoted a culture of death. Its origin and development had been marked by the tragedies of conquest, colonialism and two world wars, causing the loss of millions of human lives, violence, hunger and destruction. Capitalism as an economic system was destroying the planet and the human species. Inspired by the ideas, actions and example of President Hugo Chávez, his delegation called for a new economic

system based on the ethics of love and the principles of solidarity, equality, social justice, brotherhood, mutual respect and the defence of nature. A different world was possible, where people were not exploited and in which human rights and lives prevailed over selfish interests.

91. *Mr. Krapp (Germany), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

92. **Mr. Bultrikov** (Kazakhstan) said that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda would be a global guide for development and prosperity, bringing about a functional shift and a completely new way of looking at development so that no individual or nation was left behind. The primary responsibility for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals lay with national Governments. Kazakhstan had already formulated its national priorities and objectives before the Sustainable Development Goals were conceptualized and therefore had lessons to share. His country had made significant progress in achieving the MDGs and strengthening the foundations of statehood. Gross domestic product had grown 19-fold, while the poverty rate had fallen from 34 per cent to 3 per cent. In part thanks to its new national 2050 strategy and its planned transition to a green economy, Kazakhstan had reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

93. With the support of the World Bank, Kazakhstan had restored the northern part of the Aral Sea. It was also working with the United Nations and the international community to rehabilitate the land around the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

94. Sharing the sustainable development concerns of countries in special situations, his delegation believed that their heroic efforts must be matched by adequate and commensurate financial and technical support from the international community in order to eradicate extreme poverty in all its dimensions and achieve integrated, inclusive sustainable development.

95. Expressing deep concern for the situation of small island developing States and in a spirit of global solidarity, he said that his country was jointly working with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to install biogas systems in nine island States in the Pacific region. He also stressed that the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) must be fully

implemented in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on a global scale.

96. Kazakhstan was transitioning to low carbon development by adopting voluntary commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and by putting a price on carbon. Reaching a legally binding agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference would test collective wisdom and responsibility toward future generations. His delegation was equally committed to work towards food, energy, water and nuclear security.

97. In 2017, Kazakhstan would host Expo-2017: Future Energy, an international specialized exhibition to promote new and renewable energy sources, and would provide support to representatives of some 60 developing countries to participate. The exhibition was part of Kazakhstan's contribution towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

98. Lastly, his delegation looked forward to a robust exchange of views with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, which should provide an opportunity to shape the role and place of the commissions at every step of the development agenda. It would be fully engaged in deliberations covering a wide range of important issues.

99. **Mr. Hahn Choonghee** (Republic of Korea) said that for global promises to be transformed into reality, national development strategies must be in harmony with the 2030 Agenda as a whole. The high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2016 would play an important role in providing effective review and follow-up of that agenda. While presiding over the Economic and Social Council, the Republic of Korea would ensure inclusive cooperation among Member States, the United Nations system and key stakeholders to guarantee the success of the first high-level political forum under the new development agenda.

100. His delegation continued to support the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and its principles, such as ownership, inclusive partnership, transparency and accountability.

101. The forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference would be the last step in establishing the 2030 Agenda framework. Adapting economies to climate change would provide new opportunities for innovation and serve as a mutually reinforcing

promoter of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the fields of energy, transportation and urban development. As the host of the Green Climate Fund and the Global Green Growth Institute, as well as the new Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Republic of Korea would continue to contribute to international efforts to combat climate change and support the climate change response capacity of least developed countries and other vulnerable countries.

102. His delegation took a hands-on approach to sharing experience and know-how in the areas of rural development, education and governance, including through the Saemaul Undong project in rural development and based on the principles of diligence, self-help and cooperation. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, his Government had held a high-level side event on Saemaul Undong and reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating poverty in developing countries and building an innovative regional community and a new rural development paradigm.

103. His delegation also promoted global citizenship education, which was essential for the protection of fundamental values such as human dignity, tolerance and human rights. Thanks to the promotion of good governance, the rule of law and inclusive institutions, it would continue to focus on Sustainable Development Goal 16, which could function as a litmus test for leaving no one behind.

104. **Mr. Duarte** (Brazil) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda had invigorated multilateralism. The new Sustainable Development Goals demanded an integrated and coherent response from all agencies, funds and programmes throughout the United Nations development system. The 2030 Agenda could not be encapsulated within the Second Committee alone, but had implications across the agenda of the General Assembly as a whole. It was important not to approach the Sustainable Development Goals with an MDG mindset and also to support full participation by civil society.

105. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the critical milestones towards a coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review within the high-level political forum, as well as the

work of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

106. Implementing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism should start with the nomination of the 10-member advisory board, an initial meeting of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation, and the establishment of the online platform.

107. His country acknowledged the cross-cutting nature of ICT for development in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and underlined the importance of the 10-year high-level review conference on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. It also stressed that countries should refrain from prejudging negotiations at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

108. Global growth estimates were at their lowest since the 2009 recession, with the drop in commodity prices having a severe impact on developing countries. The continued failure to conclude the Doha Round undermined efforts to achieve a fair and equitable international trading system, and pressure on national economies threatened to erode progress in poverty eradication and increased the risk of ordinary citizens being left behind. While development was a national endeavour, developing countries needed a global enabling environment that provided sufficient policy space.

109. Although the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the means of implementation identified in the 2030 Agenda were important steps towards making the necessary changes in the global economy, sufficient progress had not been made in reforming global economic governance. Implementing the IMF 2010 quota and governance reform would be a basic step towards improving the representation of developing countries in the international financial institutions, and upgrading the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to an intergovernmental body would contribute towards unlocking the necessary resources.

110. It was unfortunate that the international financial institutions continued to operate with a lack of transparency and inclusiveness. For example, such significant decisions as the recent change in the World Bank poverty line should not be made without broader participation, and UNDP should take into consideration inputs provided by Governments when preparing its

Human Development Report. The new Sustainable Development Goals should not be implemented with the same North-South, top-down approach that had characterized implementation of the MDGs.

111. **Mr. Pedersen** (Norway) said that the new vision of leaving nobody behind was ambitious but achievable: the MDGs had lifted one billion people out of extreme poverty. Reaching the second billion would require a focus on equality of opportunity, decent jobs, and health and education for all. Gender equality was essential for harnessing the entire pool of human capital. Achieving the Addis Ababa Action Agenda's goal of moving from billions to trillions in development finance required the mobilization of both ODA and domestic resources. Enhanced tax collection would also be crucial and it was important not to lose momentum on addressing illicit financial flows.

112. The United Nations development system needed to focus on continued support to least developed and low-income countries, on support for sustainable States in politically fragile countries, on high-quality normative and technical assistance to middle-income countries, and on the harmonization of business practices and partnerships, including through the "Delivering as one" approach. It was also important to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation.

113. He emphasized that the normative, leveraging and convening role of the United Nations development system could best be funded through core contributions, and that the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review negotiations would ensure the relevance of the United Nations in the post-2015 era.

114. The Committee needed to ask itself what kind of added value it wished to provide to the 2030 Agenda. It needed to avoid duplication, while ensuring that the United Nations development system provided the most effective and efficient support for the Agenda's cross-cutting and universal nature.

115. **Mr. Suan** (Myanmar) said that despite considerable progress in achieving the MDGs, some 800 million people were still living in extreme poverty. The 2030 Agenda would complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and only a truly integrated approach involving all stakeholders could ensure that no one was left behind. His country welcomed the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Political commitment, enhanced partnership and capacity-

building would be crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

116. As the world saw more frequent climate change-related natural disasters, his country wished to reiterate the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Least developed countries needed to be provided with adequate financial and technological resources to address climate change impacts, and he looked forward to achieving agreement on such issues at the Paris Climate Change Conference. He also called for the fulfilment of commitments on enhanced development assistance, trade facilitation and technology transfer, with a view to helping least developed countries meet their goals under the Istanbul Programme of Action.

117. His country had undertaken wide-ranging economic liberalization that included monetary and financial restructuring, exchange-rate unification, a genuinely transparent central bank and budget transparency. Trade barriers had been removed, foreign investment legislation amended and infrastructure improved. The resulting robust economic growth was attracting even more foreign direct investment than expected, and with rising foreign exchange earnings and a booming tourism industry, Myanmar was now considered Asia's last economic frontier. It had also instituted socioeconomic reforms that had led to progress in numerous areas, and, notably, was one of the few countries where the incidence of HIV infection in adults had decreased by over 50 per cent during the previous decade. Myanmar's 10-year national comprehensive development plan envisioned achieving middle-income status by 2030. Its framework for economic and social reforms, launched in 2013, had made an early graduation from least developed country status even more likely. In the immediate term, Myanmar was in need of further assistance to recover from the aftermath of Cyclone Koman, which had devastated the country in the summer of 2015. He expressed his country's gratitude for the assistance provided by the United Nations and the international community thus far.

118. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Algeria) welcomed the momentum generated by the MDGs, which had been maintained, if not surpassed, with the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. The new universal agenda needed to be anchored in the Rio principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Primary responsibility

for follow-up and review rested with Governments, but the high-level political forum would play a crucial role in implementation.

119. Despite the achievements of the MDGs, progress had been uneven, especially in Africa, where the Ebola outbreak, natural disasters, fluctuating commodity prices and climate change were among the factors that marginalized that continent from the globalization process. He called on the international community to support the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the continent-wide programmes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

120. There were also new and emerging issues that need to be addressed, including sovereign debt restructuring. In that regard, his country welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/319 on sovereign debt restructuring processes. Given that desertification, drought and land degradation were also pressing concerns in his country, as in many others, he called on member States to support the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008-2018).

121. **Mr. Nduhuura** (Uganda) said that the time had come for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The principal reference documents would be the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and, potentially, the agreement that might emerge from the Paris Climate Change Conference. While national Governments should take the lead in setting priorities, the role of the United Nations development system, and in particular the high-level political forum, could not be overemphasized, especially when it came to financing and implementation.

122. Among the bodies expected to contribute to the dialogue was the Development Cooperation Forum, and his country was looking forward to hosting the November 2015 preparatory symposium for that Forum's 2016 high-level meeting. It was important to keep in mind the need to consolidate consensus on key global enablers, including means of implementation, reform of the international financial system, debt sustainability, illicit financial flows, cooperation in tax matters, climate change, and peace and security. If those questions were not given adequate attention, it would be difficult to achieve the goal of leaving no one behind.

123. **Ms. Shekriladze** (Georgia) said that the 2030 Agenda would be an important element in long-term strategies for global cooperation, which were more important than ever in an era of deepening globalization and interdependence. Every effort must be made to ensure that the 2030 Agenda enjoyed the broadest possible public support. At the recent United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, her country's Prime Minister had reaffirmed Georgia's readiness to contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and global levels.

124. The Committee was an important forum for addressing issues related to the 2030 Agenda, including international and regional trade cooperation. In that regard, she wished to note that in October 2015, her country would hold the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum not only to highlight its drive for foreign direct investment, but also to raise awareness about investment opportunities in the Central Asian region as a whole, to facilitate regional cooperation in trade and to enhance partnerships in transport, energy and trade.

125. The climate negotiations in Paris would be one of the most important events of 2015. As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 1994, her country was fully committed to the negotiation process, with a view to adopting a legally binding agreement at the Paris Conference to limit the rise in global average temperatures to less than 2 degrees Celsius.

126. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives) said that the 2030 Agenda, while beautifully crafted, was still words on paper: the Committee would play an important role in transforming those words into action.

127. Her delegation was reassured that the special situation of small island developing States had been given due consideration in the 2030 Agenda, since it was important to take into account the unique geographical and structural challenges of certain countries. For example, while the Maldives needed to provide infrastructure for its nearly 200 islands, most of them with relatively small populations, it was ineligible for concessionary financing among the small island developing States because of its categorization as a middle-income country. The unique vulnerabilities of small island developing States thus required the revision of the criteria for graduation from least developed country status. In that context, her

delegation looked forward to the General Assembly giving further consideration to implementing the commitments made under the Samoa Pathway.

128. She welcomed the inclusion of oceans within the sustainable development debate. Her country's tourism sector was dependent on the beauty and bounty of the oceans, and some of the traditional fishing methods practiced in the Maldives had positive implications for poverty eradication, employment, food security and nutrition.

129. Lastly, she stressed that small island developing States such as the Maldives also had a particular interest in climate change adaptation. The negative impacts of climate change threatened to erode the development gains made in previous decades. A meaningful and legally binding agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference would therefore be a fitting end to a year of milestones.

130. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals had reinforced the central role of United Nations in the global economic and development fields, and that the ambitiousness of the Goals matched the scale of the challenges: predictable financing, the fulfilment of commitments and timely delivery were all essential to creating an enabling environment.

131. While there was a new energy and dynamism in South-South cooperation, the Addis Ababa outcome had not secured the commitments necessary to translate the framework provided by the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration into tangible action. Implementing the new agenda would require a stable financial system and international policy environment, as well as sound domestic policies, resource mobilization and governance. A structured mechanism was also needed to address the issue of sovereign debt in order to release resources for development.

132. She expressed concern that the vital role of trade in development continued to be marginalized. The Doha Round needed to be concluded with meaningful results in agriculture and increased market access, and the impasse in the WTO negotiations needed to be addressed. Policies that enabled the private sector to overcome its short-term outlook and risk aversion would help build partnerships between the public and private sectors in support of development efforts.

133. Given the threat to development gains posed by climate change, she emphasized that efforts should be made to put aside partisan interests at the Paris Climate Change Conference and to reach an agreement that covered mitigation, adaptation, finance and technological support.

134. **Mr. Erdman** (United States of America) said that although negotiations had been long and difficult, the fact that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda had all been adopted by consensus was a cause for celebration. He hoped that that spirit of pragmatism, cooperation and compromise would extend to the Paris Climate Change Conference and the 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society. The challenge facing the Committee was to preserve that positive spirit in order to overcome the strains that had marked the previous year's session and demonstrate that the Committee was a dynamic, adaptable and forward-looking institution. Ongoing communication among members would be the key. While there was insufficient time to alter the agenda or working methods for 2015, he looked forward to a robust discussion on that issue in the future, and cautioned against individual efforts in isolated resolutions that might set unfortunate precedents for coming years.

135. One of the most important outcomes of the 2030 Agenda was the integration of environmental considerations into development priorities. For example, reaching a successful agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference would be central to combating climate change. The implementation of that new ambitious and expanded agenda would require making use of the full range financing options and also embracing new and innovative tools and partnerships. Local ownership and responsibility would be paramount. The first tangible outcomes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including the development of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, were already promising.

136. His delegation acknowledged the differences among Member States on several key issues related to the international financial system, and remained ready and willing to discuss them with all its partners. However, his country also remained firm in its unwillingness to undermine the division of labour and the mandates of the various international institutions, which had spent years accumulating the required



technical expertise and internationally agreed procedures to address such issues.

137. Lastly, he said that the Committee should continue to focus on the particular needs of the poorest and least developed countries and on countries and regions with special circumstances. For example, Africa had many of the world's fastest growing economies, and everyone would benefit by helping that continent to reach its full potential. Development outcomes could also be improved by economic diversification, investment in access to education for women and girls, improved business environments and reduced corruption.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*