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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 16th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 17 October 2019, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Niang ..... (Senegal)  
*later:* Ms. Beshkova (Acting Vice-Chair) ..... (Bulgaria)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

## **Agenda item 20: Globalization and interdependence**

### **(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/74/239)**

### **(b) Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development (A/74/230)**

### **(c) Culture and sustainable development (A/74/286)**

### **(d) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/74/269)**

1. **Ms. Barthelemy** (Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Fulfilling the promise of globalization: advancing sustainable development in an interconnected world” (A/74/239), said that globalization was transforming the world, making it more interconnected than ever before thanks to trade and the spread of new technology. Action to ensure that all countries and peoples benefited from globalization, and specific concerted efforts that were urgently needed to achieve that end, were outlined in the report.

2. The report also contained an analysis of some of the most recent successes and challenges related to globalization and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on reducing inequalities through trade and development, as well as ways to maximize the impact of information and communications technology (ICT) for the common good. Globalization could certainly be a driver of sustainable development: it was behind the high growth rates and reduction of poverty in a number of developing countries; yet, significant inequalities remained and must be addressed. Resisting innovation and retreating from global integration would not help to eliminate extreme poverty. More targeted action – and often, a reallocation of resources – would be needed to overcome the constraints that prevented the extremely poor from benefiting from trade.

3. While globalization drove global health and well-being, action was needed to address the growing global obesity epidemic and the spread of related non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, in many parts of the world. Globalization was also closely linked to migration. The fair treatment of migrants was vital to ensuring that no one was left behind; that meant addressing the links between migration and the megatrends that accompanied globalization:

urbanization, digitalization and the changing future of work. In the face of multipolar globalization and a new multilateralism, the multilateral trading system must be made more inclusive, equitable and transparent. Current trade tensions and a surge in trade-restrictive measures were heightening global economic uncertainty.

4. Governments could do more to keep pace with the rapid evolution of technology, with a view to enhancing global ICT governance. The United Nations had a normative role to play, and should also convene discussions on the value systems that would frame globalization-related efforts, including the development of technologies. A key message of the report was that the international community must ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals were fully reflected in global policies and platforms; enhanced cooperation and renewed multilateralism would be required to that end.

5. **Ms. Sirimanne** (Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development” (A/74/230), said that the report provided information on the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD and other relevant United Nations organizations to implement General Assembly resolution 72/228.

6. The report contained three major ideas. First, the new wave of technologies associated with rapid change, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, big data, synthetic biology, nanotechnology and renewable energy, as well as science, technology and innovation more broadly, offered unprecedented opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. However, rapid technological change also posed new challenges for policymakers and society; its unintended consequences could threaten shared prosperity, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. For instance, artificial intelligence and machine learning could disrupt specific markets and sectors, and could widen gender, geographical and class divides.

7. Second, without appropriate science, technology and innovation policies and capabilities, technology, whether old or new, was unlikely to deliver progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. Countries must build digital competency in order to address the gaps across and between countries, sectors and segments of society, with a special focus on gender and youth, so that communities could adapt to and benefit from rapid technological change. The development of those skills should be part of a broader process to build and

strengthen national innovation systems that developed productive capacities for industry, manufacturing, services and higher value-added activities and exports. Capacity must be created to effectively design, implement, monitor and assess policies and programmes to harness science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Innovation policy should focus not only on economic development as it had in the past, but, increasingly, on inclusiveness (for example, greater participation by women and indigenous communities) and environmental sustainability.

8. Third, the international community bore responsibility for assessing the effects of frontier technologies and building consensus on norms and guiding values. In a globalized economy and increasingly digital world, both the unprecedented opportunities and the unintended consequences of rapid technological change would likely have global implications. There must be more platforms for discussion of both current and future digital technologies and their implications for low- and middle-income countries. Effective responses could only come from coordinated undertakings, based on international cooperation, inclusive multilateralism and a multi-stakeholder approach. Stronger international mechanisms were needed to assess how frontier technology was likely to develop, and how it might impact economic development, inequality and the environment. It was also important to reach international agreement on standards and principles to govern the use of transformative frontier technologies, in particular, artificial intelligence (AI).

9. The United Nations was an excellent space in which to hold such conversations. Developing countries that were not engaged in the development of frontier technologies, but were likely to be affected by them, must have a voice in the global discourse. Advancing a global discussion on technology assessment and normative guidelines for rapid technological change would enable frontier technologies to be harnessed for sustainable development immediately, in 2030 and beyond.

10. **Ms. Roudil** (Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Liaison Office in New York and UNESCO representative to the United Nations), introducing the UNESCO report entitled “Culture and sustainable development”, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (A/74/286), said that the report covered the two-year period since August 2017 and provided a review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/229. One hundred twenty voluntary

national reviews submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development between 2017 and 2019 had shown notable progress regarding the integration of culture into national policies, and in particular, progress towards meeting Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, made possible by a number of UNESCO initiatives. The high-level discussion on culture and sustainable development held in May 2019 had highlighted the critical role that cultural diversity played in development and peace and had focused on the importance of preserving cultural heritage, the nexus between culture and education and culture as a lever for change, empowerment and social cohesion. In September 2018, UNESCO had held its first Partners’ Forum, in order to engage in a structured financing dialogue with potential partners.

11. During the reporting period, substantial progress had been made in nine major areas, including women’s and men’s equal access, participation in and contribution to cultural life, and the development of innovative mechanisms for financing culture. In order to assess culture’s contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, a framework of thematic indicators had been developed. The indicators related to the environment and resilience, prosperity and livelihoods, knowledge and skills, and inclusion and participation. In May and June 2019, UNESCO had consulted Member States and together they had established a monitoring mechanism to strengthen the culture indicators, a mechanism that would ensure clear outcomes and assessment criteria. Member States were encouraged to consider integrating a dedicated target under each of the Sustainable Development Goals that would facilitate the documentation of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

12. Placing culture at the heart of development was a capital investment in the future. The General Assembly should consider convening a high-level political debate on the impact of culture on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, complete with reports by Member States. The UNESCO Forum of Ministers of Culture, to be held on 19 November 2019 in Paris, would provide a platform for discussions of that possibility.

13. **Mr. Rashid** (Chief, Development Research Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries” (A/74/269), said that middle-income countries were home to two thirds of the world’s population and accounted for a third of global gross

domestic product. A heterogeneous and ever-expanding group of countries, they were the engines of global growth, as well as home to an overwhelming majority of the world's poor.

14. Development cooperation with middle-income countries was paramount for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The pledge to leave no one behind demanded robust, multidimensional cooperation with those countries as they confronted new and emerging development challenges and strove to become high-income countries. The global macroeconomic environment was less favourable than it had been two years earlier, particularly for middle-income countries, which, more often than not, were just as vulnerable as low-income countries. Among the major challenges they faced were growing protectionism and less favourable terms of market access; reduced demand for commodity exports from African and Latin American middle-income countries, due to growth deceleration in China; and the transformation of global value chains as a result of rapid technological change.

15. Those and other vulnerabilities underscored the inadequacy of gross national income (GNI) per capita as the only indicator for assessing countries' development needs. A more nuanced approach, such as the global Multidimensional Poverty Index, was needed. The United Nations system was building middle-income countries' capacity to measure poverty holistically, as well as making use of new sources of information, such as satellite data, to more accurately evaluate levels of poverty. Middle-income countries' vulnerabilities equally highlighted the need for alternative, more resilient sources of growth. Many found themselves unable to compete with low-wage, labour-intensive goods in the global market, while lacking the technology and skills to compete in higher value-added exports, a bind referred to as the "middle-income trap". Research, innovation and access to new technologies remained critical: middle-income countries must be able to access both existing and emerging technologies that could enhance food, health and energy security, and deliver better environmental outcomes.

16. Breakthroughs in renewable technologies, biotechnology and digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, presented immense development opportunities for middle-income countries. However, excessive market concentration and the market power of a few large firms, as well as increasingly stringent intellectual property regimes, were huge impediments to the transfer of technologies they needed. Middle-income countries' Governments needed to adopt appropriate competition policies and ensure adequate levels of intellectual property

protection, both to foster innovation and to facilitate the dissemination of new technologies. They also needed to prioritize investment in their human capital, including through the modernization of their education systems with forward-looking curricula, and a focus on lifelong learning. The United Nations system was actively facilitating technology transfers through its analytical and normative work, policy research and technical assistance.

17. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, middle-income countries would need consistent, coherent, predictable and broad-based development cooperation, particularly in accessing, deploying and using new technologies, in order to boost productivity growth, create decent jobs, reduce poverty and build resilience against shocks. Continued access to finance would remain critical in that regard. However, development support for middle-income countries must not undermine support for the least developed countries. Middle-income countries would need to harness the full potential of South-South and triangular cooperation to accelerate sustainable development.

18. **Ms. González Vargas** (Mexico), addressing the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD, asked what could be done to enable the 50 per cent of the world's population without Internet access to share the benefits of digitalization and benefit from the fast pace of technological development.

19. **Ms. Sirimanne** (Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that Internet access was a prerequisite for people to participate in and benefit from the digital revolution. It was true that 50 per cent of the global population still did not have Internet access, and in the least developed countries, the figure was nearer to 80 per cent. In conjunction with development partners, UNCTAD was working to raise awareness of the critical nature of Internet access and to increase it. Unfortunately, only approximately 1 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) was earmarked for the ICT sector, under the Aid for Trade Initiative. All stakeholders must unite to convince Governments that ICT connectivity was not optional: ICT infrastructure was critical infrastructure, and must be prioritized. At the national level, UNCTAD was seeking to build awareness of the importance of connectivity, and among development partners, of the need to allocate a greater share of ODA to improving ICT connectivity.

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

21. **Ms. Nasser** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that much remained to be done to ensure an enabling economic environment and an equitable global trading system so that all countries and people could benefit from the full potential of globalization. The world needed new approaches predicated on shared responsibility and the inclusion and participation of those furthest behind. An enabling environment for development and the necessary means of implementation were essential, particularly in the areas of finance, international trade, technology and capacity-building, and all actors must fulfil their global commitments. The United Nations should be at the heart of a reinvigorated multilateral system. In that regard, she welcomed the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to reposition the United Nations development system to better support countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

22. Science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies and ICT, were critical to the pursuit of sustainable development. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, which identified science, technology and innovation as a lever for accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Science, technology and innovation financing must be mobilized and scaled up, especially in developing countries; and those countries' efforts must be bolstered by North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the areas of financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms. Culture represented a source of identity, innovation and creativity, and made important contributions to the three dimensions of sustainable development. The Group welcomed the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the gaps and challenges faced by middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which had taken place in December 2018. It also appreciated the work of UNCTAD, particularly its work on external debt sustainability and development. Middle-income countries continued to face diverse and significant challenges, and it was crucial to address the specific and diverse needs of countries that were close to, or had recently passed the upper-middle-income threshold, but which still had structural gaps and vulnerabilities.

23. Lastly, the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, should develop transparent measures of progress on sustainable development that went beyond GNI per capita, building on existing initiatives as appropriate. Such indicators

must recognize the multidimensional nature of poverty and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels. Concrete progress on such measures was of the utmost importance to the Group.

24. *Ms. Beshkova (Bulgaria), Acting Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

25. **Ms. Azucena** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Like-minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, said that the Group appreciated the convening, in December 2018, of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the gaps and challenges faced by middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and looked forward to the second such meeting in 2020. Middle-income countries were not a homogenous group, and their amalgamation did not do justice to the myriad of diverse challenges they faced, challenges which required that the international community, and the United Nations in particular, offer tailored support.

26. The critical challenges that the Secretary-General identified in his report entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries" ([A/74/269](#)), including the needs to identify, measure and alleviate multidimensional poverty; enhance access to and the quality of social services; strengthen social protection systems; and improve environmental sustainability, highlighted the necessity of multidimensional indicators to assess middle-income countries' development needs. The alarming statistics contained in the report of the Secretary-General on external debt sustainability and development ([A/74/234](#)) underscored the need for sustained efforts to avoid a debt crisis and to ensure that debt restructuring was timely, orderly, effective, fair and negotiated in good faith. Targeted and differentiated cooperation strategies to foster economic growth and eradicate poverty should incorporate measures to reduce inequalities, empower women, address climate change, mitigate disaster risk, support sustainable infrastructure and promote science, technology and innovation.

27. The United Nations, in consultation with the international financial institutions, should develop transparent indicators of progress on sustainable development that went beyond GNI per capita. Furthermore, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and bilateral donors should include multidimensional eligibility criteria in their financial policies to facilitate more sequenced, phased and gradual assistance to middle-income countries. Because development cooperation with middle-income countries was conducted on an ad-hoc basis, a whole swathe of countries was being left behind.

The Group reiterated its request for the United Nations to develop a comprehensive, United Nations system-wide long-term sustainable development strategy that would facilitate the necessary coordinated support for middle-income countries.

28. South-South and triangular cooperation had a fundamental part to play in providing technical support to middle-income countries, as well as in technology transfer and capacity-creation. The fourth Ministerial Declaration of the Group reaffirmed the Group's principles and vision, and recognized its efforts to advance the interests of middle-income countries within the United Nations system. The Group looked forward to a meaningful discussion of the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries and its adoption by the General Assembly, and counted on the international community's support to adopt a multidimensional approach to poverty and development for the true achievement of the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

29. **Mr. Richardson** (Saint Lucia), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that States members of CARICOM had long experienced both the benefits and the burdens of globalization, which exacerbated development challenges they faced, including slow and volatile economic growth, high and rising levels of unemployment, high incidences of poverty, income and wealth inequality, and vulnerability to the effects of climate change, such as natural disasters and rising sea levels.

30. The international community's collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda faltered in the face of the need to dedicate significant resources to it, at both the national and international levels. Hollow words and hope would not be enough to close the gap between aspiration and realization. The unsustainability of the patterns of development engendered by the existing, unequal model was growing with time. If current trends continued, there was no hope of a sustainable future for the generations to come.

31. Addressing the challenges to inclusive and equitable growth would require harmonizing policy actions and reforming international systems. Greater investment in infrastructure and increased transparency in international tax matters would also necessitate enhanced global coordination and cooperation. Globalization and interdependence meant that sustainable development efforts at all levels must be mutually reinforcing.

32. Member States must not shy away from their commitments to integration, cooperation and consensus-building. It was more apparent than ever to the Caribbean small island developing States that

sustainable globalization and interdependence were not optional if the 2030 Agenda was to be successful. CARICOM called for the Committee's considered treatment of the items in its programme of work, and for it to move beyond rhetoric to take deliberate action. The group remained committed to constructive deliberations and to ensuring that political will, policy support and coordination were brought to bear on the need for equitable development in all States.

33. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the outlook for the United Nations and the multilateral rules-based system was increasingly complex and uncertain. Challenges including trade tensions and protectionism were jeopardizing the success of the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development at home was dependent on an enabling international environment that facilitated international trade, investment flows, technology transfer and capacity-building. A global economic system that was open, transparent and based on the rule of law was of fundamental importance.

34. As the 2019 Chair of ASEAN, Thailand was focusing on advancing partnership for sustainable development, a theme which underscored the Association's belief that interdependence promoted regional stability, peace and prosperity. ASEAN had consistently supported multilateralism, including by persevering against global headwinds for an expeditious conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which would not only advance regional integration but would also send a clear signal that ASEAN continued to subscribe to the principles of free trade and globalization. ASEAN remained committed to an open, universal and rules-based multilateral trading system. International trade had been an engine of growth and prosperity for ASEAN countries and globally, and contributed to lifting millions out of poverty. Despite its limitations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) remained the best forum for the development of such a global framework for trade.

35. With a view to embracing digitalization, ASEAN had developed several initiatives aimed at building resilience against disruption; the goal was to enable its people to thrive in the current era of rapid technological change. A key effort was the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, which had been launched during the chairmanship of Singapore in 2018: 26 cities in ASEAN member States were working toward smart and sustainable urban development, in line with the vision of an ASEAN where all cities were inclusive, vibrant and interconnected. ASEAN was also advancing its integration agenda through initiatives such as the

ASEAN Single Window, designed to reduce trade barriers; the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan, aimed at improving connectivity; and the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy, which was promoting green growth opportunities in the region.

36. As the foundations of the 2030 Agenda, globalization and interdependence were central to leaving no one behind. Only through intensified regional integration, unwavering commitment to a rules-based system and strengthened regional and international cooperation and partnerships would ASEAN be able to deliver sustainable development for its people. The Association was fully committed to supporting the United Nations in its central role in global governance and looked forward to working with all delegations towards a stronger global partnership for all.

37. **Ms. Melnik** (Russian Federation) said that international cooperation was key to implementing the 2030 Agenda because the development of all States was interconnected. Advances in sustainable development were being accompanied by increases in the volume of trade, the use of ICT, migration and exchanges of ideas and knowledge. The positive potential of globalization must be harnessed for the benefit of humankind as a whole, with a view to reducing poverty and achieving comprehensive economic growth and sustainable development. Globalization also played an important role in building a world that was politically and economically multipolar and equitable, and should help to overcome the consequences of such negative trends as trade wars and unilateral economic measures, while reducing inequality. The interconnectedness of nations heightened the need for cooperation between the United Nations; the Bretton Woods institutions; the Group of 20; Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS countries) and other multilateral entities.

38. Russia attached great importance to assisting middle-income countries. In particular, technologies, biotechnologies and digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, could open up new sustainable growth opportunities, and Russia was making progress in that area. In December 2018, the Government had approved a national digital economy programme, under which a project was under way to develop global competitive infrastructure for transferring processes and storing data. By the end of 2024, the share of households with access to modern information infrastructure was expected to be at least 97 per cent. Work was under way to create a single digital economic environment for the Eurasian Economic Union, which was composed of middle-income countries. The single environment

would support new markets, new service sectors, new and innovative companies, enhanced government services and a greater role for the Union in the global digital agenda.

39. Culture provided a major stimulus for sustainable development by supporting economic growth and improving living standards. As one of the larger multinational countries, Russia was keenly interested in safeguarding and developing cultural traditions and customs, as well as ensuring that all citizens had access to culture. In that connection, the Government was prioritizing the opening and restoration of regional culture centres, venues which had historically provided cultural entertainment. It was also working to create “culture clusters” in some of the country’s major cities, platforms which brought together local offshoots of theatres, museums and universities. Lastly, the Government was promoting tourism to cultural heritage centres in the country; in 2016, its tourism industry had grown by more than 46 per cent.

40. **Ms. Pasaribu** (Indonesia) said that although globalization and interdependence advanced sustainable development, they also contributed to increasing inequalities and cross-border challenges. To leverage globalization and interdependence as forces for good, a reinvigorated multilateral system, with the United Nations at its centre, was needed. The means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other global commitments must be strengthened, heeding the guidance issued at recent high-level events.

41. Furthermore, all countries and peoples must benefit from globalization, and its gains must not be reversed. Middle-income countries increasingly played a role in the global landscape and had created positive synergies for other developing countries through trade, investment and the sharing of good practices. Notwithstanding, they faced unique challenges, which must be better understood and acknowledged with classification criteria that went beyond GNI per capita. A new and more comprehensive classification system could also provide for flexible international technology transfer and concessional financing.

42. Lastly, science, technology and innovation must be harnessed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. They could accelerate economic diversification, improve productivity and enable developing countries to fully participate in the global economy, and therefore local capacity in that area should be nurtured. However, new technologies came with risks: they might exacerbate the digital divide and eliminate jobs, and



must therefore be managed strategically. It was vital to strike the right balance between embracing the benefits of globalization and mitigating the risks associated with it.

43. **Mr. González Peña** (Cuba) said that back in 1998, Fidel Castro Ruz had called for globalization to be cooperative, characterized by sustainable development and the fair distribution and rational use of resources. In the current, increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in fostering development were more relevant than ever. Unilateral, protectionist and exclusionist acts, primarily by the United States of America, advanced national interests while eroding the current multilateral framework to the detriment of the necessarily global solutions to the challenges faced by humanity. A transparent, open, non-discriminatory and inclusive multilateralism was needed in order to maximize the gains of globalization and minimize its costs. Respect for the diverse visions and models chosen by each people, bearing in mind their various circumstances, capacities and national priorities, was a precondition for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

44. However, reality was different: the development gap between the North and the South continued to grow, and problems such as poverty, chronic hunger, illiteracy, deaths from preventable diseases, the digital divide and climate change persisted. The resources needed to resolve those problems were available, but the political will was lacking. He called for a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, the common good and cooperation between States. Developing countries must achieve technological independence, and must have improved access to financing, investment, capacity-building, infrastructure development and technology transfer. Countries in special situations, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, were most in need of financing for development. Countries' levels of development, particularly middle-income countries' levels of development, should be classified according to a multidimensional system that went beyond GNI and addressed a meaningful range of criteria.

45. Cuba rejected the use of unilateral coercive economic measures as a means of exerting political and economic pressure on developing countries in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and which hindered those countries' full enjoyment of their rights, among them the right to development. His country laboured toward development under the unjust and illegal embargo imposed by the

United States of America, which had become even more harmful in 2019 with the activation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. In spite of that, Cuba had made noteworthy strides in development and continued to aspire to global cooperation and solidarity. That commitment was evidenced by its more than 60,000 collaborators in 65 countries, and 407,000 Cuban health professionals who had served in 164 countries, on every continent, since 1963.

46. **Mr. Alrayes** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country believed in the power of culture to expand economic and social horizons. Culture was an essential component of the 2030 Agenda and at the heart of the Kingdom's development strategy. In 2018, Saudi Arabia had established a Ministry of Culture to promote the role of culture in daily life, economic development and investment.

47. The Kingdom also promoted the role of ICT in development and stressed digital infrastructure as a major driver of industry, investment and competitiveness. Saudi Vision 2030 contained an ICT infrastructure component that included expanded high-speed broadband coverage. The 3 million pilgrims who had taken part in the hajj in 2019 had enjoyed a world-class ICT infrastructure, including a 5G network at all holy sites. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology had implemented phase 2 of its Smart Hajj initiative, which offered pilgrims a virtual platform serviced by over 13,000 towers and thousands of volunteers working round the clock.

48. **Mr. Husain** (Nigeria) said that the global governance architecture must be reformed to better reflect current realities, and the international community must think and act with humanity's long-term interest in view. ICT was a major component of the Nigerian economy, and was increasingly impacting the Government's delivery of services and citizens' participation in public life. The digital divide was therefore a very particular concern; all stakeholders were urged to support developing countries to achieve people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information societies, in line with commitments made under the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

49. Migration was an integral part of globalization that contributed to social, economic and cultural interconnectedness. Inequalities for migrants must be reduced if the world was truly to leave no one behind. He called on Governments which had restricted migrants' economic and social integration to lift any such restrictions, and on all Member States to treat all migrants humanely, regardless of their migration status.



50. The ambition of the 2030 Agenda must be met with bold changes in the way development partners and the United Nations development system operated: middle-income countries must be assisted with high-quality, context-sensitive policy advice and technologically sound capacity-building. He called on the United Nations and its Member States to enhance their development cooperation with middle-income countries and to create an enabling environment in which they could attract investment and boost productive capacity. The United Nations development system, along with the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders, should also ensure that middle-income countries' diverse development challenges were addressed in a coordinated manner, bearing in mind national peculiarities.

51. **Ms. González Vargas** (Mexico) said that while globalization and interdependence were a reality of modern life, it was unacceptable that they deepened inequality. It was particularly troubling in the light of the commitment to leave no one behind. Despite the position of Mexico among the top 20 economies in the world, there were regions and groups in its territory that had historically been forgotten; efforts should be redoubled to ensure their inclusion in sustainable development.

52. It was impossible to discuss globalization without considering international migration. Remittances had reached a historic high in 2018, and amounted to more than three times the total of ODA. In view of migration's huge role in sustainable development, she reiterated her delegation's support for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Mexico vigorously condemned xenophobic and hateful rhetoric and the violence it inspired. Migrants made positive contributions to their countries of origin and destination. It was more important than ever that the inherent value of cultural diversity be recognized, which implied realizing the value of and respecting migrants' cultures of origin. All cultures were unique voices that could transmit knowledge and potential; globalization should amplify them, facilitating their contribution to sustainable development.

53. Globalization must be made fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable. Her Government was carrying out projects to democratize access to ICT, with the expectation that Internet access would reduce inequality. As the rapid development of ICT would have the greatest effect on young people., the Mexican Institute for Youth, partnering with Microsoft, had launched a programme called the Digital Skills Laboratory, aimed at imparting to young people the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the labour

market. However, in view of States' interdependence, moving towards equality would require improved international cooperation to ensure that all people had the opportunity to fully develop their potential. As such, Mexico welcomed the Secretary-General's initiatives that provided for combined financial and technical assistance.

54. Mexico supported efforts towards a universal, rules-based, fair, modern and transparent trade system under the governance of WTO. In the face of such challenges as unilateral protectionism, capital outflows and the application of restrictions on migration to ease internal labour market pressures, Mexico would remain committed to what the 2030 Agenda stood for and would seek to use the current session to ensure that the Committee's work advanced the Sustainable Development Goals.

55. **Ms. Sutthisripok** (Thailand) said that greater efforts were needed to build more just and inclusive societies and address the unequal and unsustainable benefits of globalization. For instance, while globalization had supported middle-income countries' robust economic expansion, it had also engendered multiple forms of inequality that undermined their long-term sustainable growth prospects.

56. To reap the benefits of globalization and avoid the middle-income trap, her Government intended to transform the national economy into a knowledge- and value-based economy driven by environmentally sound technology, guided by a policy called Thailand 4.0. Efforts to improve productive capacity, add value to products and services and advance industrial innovation were initially focused on the following five sectors: food, agriculture and biotechnology; health and medical technology; robotics and mechatronics; artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things; and creativity, culture and high-value services. Human resource development was at the heart of Thailand 4.0: the largest share of the national budget was allocated to education, and all children, including migrant children, were entitled to 15 years of free education. To equip the future workforce for the fourth industrial revolution, the Government continued to place emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics in schools, and had created the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, charged with ensuring that those subjects were also prioritized at the tertiary level.

57. As the 2019 Chair of ASEAN, Thailand had chosen the theme "Partnership for sustainability" and advocated further strengthening partnerships and cooperation both within the region and externally in

areas ranging from trade and financial inclusion to the marine environment and disaster risk reduction. Thailand had introduced a draft resolution on advancing science, technology and innovation for the 2030 Agenda at the seventy-fifth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It looked forward to implementing the resolution with all member States, including by launching the Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum.

58. **Mr. Li Gen** (China) said that the changes wrought by globalization meant that humankind lived in one global village, which was increasingly becoming a community of shared destiny. As globalization progressed, problems such as the unfair distribution of wealth and the gap between the rich and the poor were worsening. The unfair international division of labour had kept developing countries in the middle and at the lower end of the global value chain for a long time. Poverty, hunger, inequality and climate change had seriously hindered sustainable development. The unilateralism and protectionism adopted by certain countries had cast a shadow on globalization. In the face of such challenges, the international community must remain committed to development: it was the only path to eliminating the root causes of conflict, protecting people's basic rights and fulfilling their desire for a better life.

59. China had always advocated globalization, and was willing to share development opportunities and progress with other countries. Its Belt and Road Initiative had garnered global consensus and, owing to the joint efforts of all participating countries, had yielded tangible results. By the end of 2018, Chinese enterprises had invested more than \$90 billion in the countries along the route, and signed new foreign contracts worth more than \$600 billion. China's express railway had connected 108 cities in 16 Eurasian countries. In 2018, China had held the first China International Import Expo trade forum, which had attracted thousands of foreign enterprises and achieved a trading volume of \$57.8 billion in six days. The forum was a major step in opening China's market to the world and enabling enterprises and people of all countries to benefit from Chinese development opportunities.

60. China would continue to firmly uphold the multilateral system, with the United Nations playing a central role. His delegation hoped that the United Nations would do more in the field of development. China stood ready to work with all Member States to make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all, in order to build a positive shared future for humankind.

61. **Mr. Kumar** (India) said that globalization had enhanced connectivity, supported the dissemination of technologies, decreased the costs of goods and services and increased cross-cultural communication. However, a number of challenges revealed the unsustainability of the current model: the gap between the rich and the poor was widening, poverty and environmental degradation persisted and health challenges, such as antimicrobial resistance and HIV/AIDS, continued to emerge. Moreover, international collaboration was needed to collectively manage global commons such as the oceans, space and cyberspace, and to address global concerns such as terrorism.

62. Effective multilateralism was the only way to manage the challenges of globalization and the opportunities it provided; the global governance architecture must be adjusted to better reflect current realities. The international community must work together to create an enabling economic environment and an equitable trading system, and to bridge the digital divide for an inclusive fourth industrial revolution. Science, technology and innovation must be harnessed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations should play a normative and convening role in organizing discussions on the value systems that should guide globalization efforts, including the development of new technologies and national efforts to address issues common to all countries, such as rising inequalities.

63. India continued to play its part in addressing climate change and other sustainable development challenges. Ancient Indian wisdom held that the world was one single family: that sense of interdependence manifested itself in his country's respect for diversity and spirit of cooperation. In that connection, India was expanding its development partnerships with fellow developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States. Some of its recent initiatives included the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure and the establishment of the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund.

64. **Ms. Almenhali** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country had officially declared 2019 the "year of tolerance" and had launched a number of tolerance-related initiatives. It had recently announced a construction project in Abu Dhabi called the "Abrahamic Family House" that would house a church, a mosque and a synagogue all on one site. The United Arab Emirates was also contributing \$50 million to renovate the Great Mosque of al-Nuri and the Hadba' minaret as part of the UNESCO "revive the spirit of Mosul" project.

65. Her Government promoted innovative solutions to the challenges of the technological revolution that harnessed STI and artificial intelligence for sustainable development. Her country had been a founding member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation. Each year, the city of Dubai was host to the World Government Summit, which brought together thousands of leaders and decision-makers from more than 150 States and served as a platform for forward-looking solutions to potential risks posed by the technological future. The forthcoming meeting of the Summit, scheduled for November 2020, would coincide with Expo 2020 Dubai, which would also attract thousands of intellectual leaders and experts.

66. **Ms. Paba Sale** (Cameroon) said that the challenges presented by globalization could only be resolved multilaterally. By making the most of the incredible opportunities offered by trade and technological development, the international community could make globalization a lever for sustainable development and poverty eradication. The much-discussed deep reforms of the global governance architecture must be approached with courage and long-term vision. The multilateral trading system must be made modern, strong, open, transparent and equitable and compliant with the rules of WTO. Cameroon remained committed to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and urged a significant reduction in the fees applied to money transfers carried out by migrants.

67. The emergence of digital technologies and the rapid spread of mobile technologies were contributing to the dawn of smart societies. ICT had the potential to reduce poverty and hunger, improve health, create new jobs, boost energy efficiency and make cities and settlements sustainable. With that in view, her delegation encouraged the creation of strategic partnerships that would ensure accelerated installation of affordable and high-quality digital infrastructure in the countries of the South, in particular in rural areas. New technologies, including artificial intelligence, cloud computing and the Internet of Things, were putting national regulations to the test. Cyberattacks posed increasingly serious security threats to all countries' public and private sectors. The Committee, along with other competent bodies, should take urgent action to enhance cybersecurity and protect ICT infrastructure that was critical for development, with a particular focus on vulnerable countries of the South.

68. Her delegation also called for more effective multilateral cooperation to address harmful phenomena that were fed by globalization, such as tax evasion and illicit financial flows, which hugely impacted

developing countries; the propagation of fake news and other messages that incited violence; transnational crime; and the emission of pollutants, which jeopardized livelihoods and the sustainability of the planet. A revitalized multilateral system supported by the United Nations was vital to ensure that globalization was more equitable, inclusive and sustainable. Lastly, Member States were urged to provide sufficient and predictable funding to the Secretary-General for the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in line with General Assembly resolution [72/279](#).

69. Aware of its responsibilities in a globalized and interdependent world, Cameroon was investing in new technologies to build a sustainable digital economy that would boost employment, the construction of sustainable and resilient infrastructure, innovation and renewable energy.

70. **Mr. Dorji** (Bhutan) said that, as a landlocked and least developed country, Bhutan understood the catalytic and transformative role that globalization could play, particularly through the diffusion of ICT and frontier technologies that had the power to unlock developing countries' human and economic potential. If complemented by sound policies, globalization held the key to reaching the furthest behind first and implementing the 2030 Agenda. Notwithstanding its immense benefits, globalization had resulted in unequal gains and left millions mired in poverty. A collaborative international response was needed, yet, ironically, the relevance of multilateralism was being questioned precisely when it had never been more important.

71. The current state of the global economy and the environment were clear indicators that if globalization was not managed with sound policies, its benefits would be unequal and unsustainable. His Government, guided by the development philosophy of "gross national happiness", sought to balance economic growth with social development, environmental sustainability and cultural preservation. With a renewed focus on "narrowing the gap", it was seeking to ensure that every man, woman and child in the country enjoyed the fruits of economic, social and technological progress, and lived productive, fulfilling lives. Various flagship programmes and government initiatives designed to support all segments of society were in place.

72. Bhutan was implementing policies to leverage the power of science, technology and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government welcomed the technology needs assessment that the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries was conducting in Bhutan, and, more generally, appreciated the continuing efforts of United Nations

system departments and entities to assist developing countries in the integration of science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies. Bhutan was prioritizing science, technology, engineering and mathematics in its education system to ensure that its curricula responded to the needs of society and the economy. Lastly, Bhutan remained committed to a reinvigorated multilateral system, with the United Nations at its centre, which was the key to fairer and more sustainable globalization.

73. **Mr. Henckert** (Namibia) said that although Namibia's classification as an upper-middle-income country might give the appearance of success, given the country's history, it was in fact a misleading classification that had been used as the basis for denying his country access to concessional financing that it needed for development. There was a huge disparity between the wealthy and the poor in Namibia; with a Gini coefficient of 0.56, it was one of the most unequal societies in the world. Heavy reliance on primary commodity exports, vulnerability to disasters, significant external debt and capital outflows all deepened inequalities.

74. Classifying countries according to GNI per capita alone did not reflect the complexity of their development challenges, and that classification did not constitute a sufficient basis for the formulation of comprehensive strategies to meet their development needs. The criteria used by the Committee for Development Policy to determine when countries should graduate from the least developed country category, namely GNI per capita, combined with their scores on the Human Assets Index and the Economic Vulnerability Index, provided a fairer framework. Economic vulnerability was important: climate change, among other factors, was increasingly a determinant of productivity in Namibia. Extreme weather events had been impacting productivity not only through the destruction of infrastructure, but also through the reduction of agricultural output due to drought.

75. Countries like Namibia needed access to climate finance to mitigate the effects of climate change and develop adaptive capacity. He called on all development partners to scale up their efforts and meet the climate financing commitments made under the Paris Agreement, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The Green Climate Fund and the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund should be adequately supported. His country was grateful for the support that the United Nations had provided to smallholder farmers in seven regions, installing more than 200 micro-drip irrigation gardens to enhance their adaptive capacity in the face of climate change. The

United Nations had also assisted Namibia with high-resolution satellite imagery to be used during census-mapping exercises.

76. In the light of the importance of bilateral and multilateral trade, his Government highly valued the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan of the Southern African Development Community, the African Tripartite Free Trade Area and the other frameworks that served to open markets for Namibian products. Efforts to reform the international financial system must continue. Lastly, an open and rules-based trading system, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation, should play a critical role in stimulating economic growth and development.

77. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that her Government was working to harness the potential of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. It had established a new Secretariat for Innovation and charged it with modernizing the State, training government staff and rolling out policies geared toward development and innovation. The Government was also developing a digital agenda to guide the country's digital transformation over the next 10 years, with a view to increasing its competitiveness in the context of the fourth industrial revolution. It hoped that technological developments would reduce inequalities and facilitate the safeguarding of the individual and collective rights of all citizens. The Government, academia and the private sector were all involved in the formulation of the digital agenda, and would welcome support from additional actors, including the United Nations system, during its implementation phase.

78. The single criterion of GNI per capita did not constitute sufficient grounds for restricting access to concessional financing: it was necessary to look at a comprehensive picture, taking into account factors such as social inequalities and local vulnerability to climate change. The system for graduating to the middle-income category should provide for progressive, sequential change and policies tailored to the individual situation of every country. Each middle-income country faced unique challenges that made international development cooperation critical. El Salvador stood ready to engage constructively to support other developing countries and advocate a fairer classification system that factored in all aspects of development.

79. **Ms. Uprety** (Nepal) said that trade and technology, the two major drivers of globalization, were in a period of rapid transition. Growing trade tensions among the large economies was creating economic uncertainty and disrupting value chains. In the interconnected world, such frictions had tremendous

ramifications, particularly for the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, which were highly vulnerable to socioeconomic shocks. Moreover, the landlocked developing countries faced infrastructure and capacity constraints that limited their ability to gain from globalization.

80. The technological frontier was ever expanding, forcing an economic paradigm shift, with changes to modes of production and consumption and labour markets. The digital divide was widening and the developing countries, especially the least developed countries, were struggling to cope with the new models. Many countries had yet to fully absorb the technologies of previous industrial revolutions, and the world was on the eve of a fourth revolution. In view of the very uneven playing field, reforms to global governance and the international financial architecture must be made urgently. Inclusive multilateralism was a sine qua non for globalization that benefited all countries. Diffusion and transfer of technology to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms were essential, as was investment in connectivity infrastructure such as roads, railways, waterways, airways and transmission grids.

81. With more than 10 per cent of the Nepalese population living abroad, protecting the human rights and well-being of all migrants was a priority issue for her delegation. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was an important framework for addressing migration-related issues holistically. Nepal had full confidence in the ability of the United Nations to address the challenges facing the international community and make globalization more inclusive.

82. **Monsignor Hansen** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the international community, and the Second Committee in particular, should pay greater attention to the kind of globalization being advanced and its concrete impact on men, women and children. Globalization could be a means of bringing peoples together, sharing knowledge and technology, engaging in mutually beneficial trade and cooperating to solve common problems, such as mass migration. That sort of globalization should be promoted by multilateral efforts founded on good will and good faith, readiness to cooperate and treat one another with respect, honesty and fairness, and openness to find common solutions. It demanded joint pursuit of the common good, the primacy of justice and the rule of law, and the support and development of those most in need. To strike the right balance between the identities of individuals and countries, globalization must be grounded in the inherent dignity of every person and based on a

recognition of the real and necessary solidarity between individuals and peoples.

83. However, globalization was harmful when it manifested itself as unilateral action in response to international challenges, partisan or nationalistic policies that excluded and alienated, the dominion of the powerful over the weak or the imposition of the ideologies of the haves on the have-nots. The most devastating consequences of such actions were felt in the most disadvantaged countries and the weakest sectors of the population. The positive aspects of globalization must be cultivated, and its negative impacts must be checked with more effective multilateral cooperation to advance sustainable development and promote the common good of all.

84. **Ms. Linke-Heep** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that in many middle-income countries, the share of competitive industrial sectors in high value-addition manufacturing remained low. Low value-added agricultural and extractive exports were vulnerable to global fluctuations. As a result, middle-income countries were thus unable to compete either with low-wage manufacturers in low-income countries, or with high value-added technological innovations produced in high-income countries. Inclusive and sustainable industrialization was key to helping middle-income countries to avoid that predicament: the middle-income trap.

85. UNIDO served middle-income countries in three core areas. First, it assisted them in bridging the digital divide through the development, transfer and adaptation of new technologies at the multisectoral level, along with the provision of policy advice to ensure full compliance with global regulatory frameworks. Second, UNIDO built human capital by expanding and improving industrial skills programmes, with a focus on young people and women. Third, it assisted middle-income countries in achieving green industrial transformation with low-carbon technologies and circular systems, the adoption of circular waste management, and business models based on synergies in order to boost productivity. Its work in supporting the transfer of green technologies and technological expertise, as well as the creation of productive capacity for industry and manufacturing, contributed to enhancing middle-income countries' competitiveness and narrowing the gap between middle-income and industrialized countries.

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*