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Chair: Mr. Logar (Slovenia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Opening statement by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that the Committee needed to help define a bold and ambitious action plan for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit two weeks previously, and would take the lead in providing political guidance and engaging dialogue on many pressing development issues. Outlining some of the matters for consideration by the Committee, he said that under the agenda item on eradication of poverty, it should be borne in mind that all sustainable development policies and frameworks must include explicit commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women, since the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of decision-making, policy development and monitoring was fundamental. In its discussions of macroeconomic policy questions the Committee would be guided by the priorities of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the third International Conference on Financing for Development. Noting that the Committee would address issues including the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development, he said that efforts must be strengthened to assist countries in implementing the universal development agenda, in particular by prioritizing the needs of countries in special situations, helping to build productive capacities, and addressing infrastructure challenges in Africa and the least developed countries. The United Nations system should provide coordinated and coherent assistance, with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council all playing their part. Another pressing issue was information and communications technologies for development, since the digital divide remained a real challenge with least developed countries continuing to fall behind.

2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had given renewed impetus to the Committee's efforts to revitalize and rationalize its work. He would be convening a meeting on rationalization of work on 9 October and looked forward to hearing the views of members, including on how the Committee could ensure that the focus of its work was in line with the requirements of the integrated follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

3. **Mr. Wu Hongbo** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development built on the progress of the Millennium Development Goals and underscored the important relationship between development, human rights, humanitarian issues, and peace and security. It had come at a time when the international community was facing important challenges, such as deterioration in the growth outlook in many developing countries, geopolitical tensions that were leading to a dramatic increase in the numbers of refugees and international migrants around the world, and the increasing impact of climate change. In order to achieve the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind, certain steps must be taken. Policy frameworks placing the global economy on a stronger and more balanced growth trajectory should be developed, and coherence and coordination at the domestic, regional and global levels should be enhanced. The poorest and most vulnerable countries should continue to be given special attention, as well as policy space and opportunities for constructive engagement in all intergovernmental processes. Efforts should be made to revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and to continue the engagement of Member States on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which would complement the 2030 Agenda in certain areas. An ambitious outcome from the forthcoming twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was also required.

4. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs was supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a number of key areas. It would assist Member States in preparing for the 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. It was also working to improve the availability and quality of basic data essential to the monitoring process, and was organizing the second meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to begin developing a global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda. The Department was assisting several pilot countries in strengthening institutional capacity and continued to provide strategic guidance to the United Nations development system. It would support the implementation of the technology facilitation mechanism.

5. The year 2015 had seen unprecedented global cooperation. The international community stood at a critical juncture in its efforts to end extreme poverty and promote sustainable development, and could look beyond 2015 with great optimism.

**Keynote address by Professor Abhijit Banerjee,
Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute
of Technology**

6. **Mr. Banerjee** (Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), addressing the topic: “Vision 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Advancing Sustainable Development”, said that the excitement and ambition associated with the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constituted a double-edged sword. There was a danger that the goalposts might be perceived to be too far away and that the international community might start sliding back. In order to avoid such a situation, it was imperative to focus on strategy and on how to achieve the goals, with due recognition of the fact that resources and implementation capacity were extremely limited in many countries of the world.

7. The Abdul Lateef Jamil Poverty Action Laboratory had been established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 12 years previously with the goal of translating research into action on key challenges. Through his work with the Laboratory as a development economist, including in undertaking rigorous evaluations of strategies and discussions with governments, leaders and policymakers, he had learned a number of lessons.

8. First, it was often not the will, but the way, that prevented good programmes from being implemented. Many improvements required no additional financial resources, just a certain amount of attention from the implementing agency. However, the capacity to turn ideas into transformative programmes was enormously scarce, and business as usual was likely to prevail unless the time and space for reflection, innovation and change were provided.

9. Second, it was important not to be too hesitant about labelling the obvious, which was often easy to miss and very important. For example, learning was not the same as going to school, and it was regrettable that none of the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals constituted a learning target. Tools such as dedicated catch-up programmes to help the millions of

school children around the world who had fallen behind in their basic skills could make a big difference.

10. Third, a common perception in policy settings was that considerable effort and resources were required to effect changes, whereas small interventions could be very powerful. Uptake of a rice subsidy programme in Indonesia had increased greatly by sending all beneficiaries a card indicating their entitlement and the price per kilogram, and ten years after a de-worming programme in Kenya the children who had taken part were found to be earning 20 per cent more than those who had not. A readiness to try different things was essential in order to select the correct intervention.

11. Fourth, the tyranny of theory was a powerful problem. The commonly held theories about outcomes were not always correct and he highlighted the importance of data analysis for their substantiation. Measurement was power, and one of the major challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was measurement and accountability. The act of measuring and recording data helped to focus attention on which interventions could and would be successful.

12. Lastly, he cautioned against myth-making, which could be so powerful that it resisted the pull of evidence. For example, microcredit was referred to in the Sustainable Development Goals as a tool to which all men and women should have access, although numerous experimental evaluations undertaken in diverse countries had found no evidence of an increase in the average recipient’s consumption or income. The development business had generated many myths and it was important to be sceptical.

13. **Mr. Dennis** (Liberia), noting that the small things that brought the most benefit were often overlooked, asked how the space to enable results to be maximized could be provided.

14. **Ms. Miyano** (Japan), noting that the importance of partnership had been emphasized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, asked whether the Poverty Action Laboratory had entered into partnerships with ministries and, if so, what obstacles had been encountered.

15. **Mr. Banerjee** (Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), observing that it was always possible to do more than initially anticipated, said that the Laboratory had entered into

useful partnerships with a number of Governments, including in Chile, Ghana, India, Indonesia and Peru. A partnership did not simply involve the provision of intellectual and financial resources; the means to navigate the bureaucracy and create the time and space necessary for innovation and change were equally valuable. Many ideas were not followed through owing to a lack of capacity, and the Laboratory had recently launched a government partnership initiative to provide assistance in navigating the bureaucratic process.

16. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that microcredit was very important for countries such as Peru, particularly in post-crisis periods, not only from the financial point of view but also in terms of empowerment of vulnerable populations, including women. There was empirical evidence to show that access to financial services had an impact on living standards; he asked about the impact of microcredit on financial inclusion.

17. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that, in his statement, Mr. Banerjee had leaned more towards the academic side than the policy-making side. There was no doubt that microcredit had played a critical role in his country, particularly in terms of financial inclusion and the empowerment of women. The importance of will, notably political will on the part of leaders, should not be belittled.

18. **Mr. Banerjee** (Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) said that it was absolutely true that microcredit had been a driver of inclusion and had been beneficial for entrepreneurs on the margins of the financial system. However, there was no compelling evidence, including from studies undertaken in Ethiopia and Peru, of major income gains as a result of microcredit. The question was not whether there should be more innovation in delivering credit to the poor, but whether such credit should be untargeted, as microcredit often was.

19. Political will was sometimes overestimated as a constraint. There was room for improvement within existing systems, and he had therefore chosen to focus on the way, rather than on the will, to make a change.

General debate

20. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed overall satisfaction with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the third International Conference on

Financing for Development even though there were outstanding issues that required immediate attention in order to make sustainable development accessible to all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set out a new basis for development cooperation and interaction with development partners; in its implementation, national policy space and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be maintained. The work of the Committee must build on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, and strive to lay the foundation for the implementation of the commitments resulting from those two separate, but complementary, processes. An unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda would make a huge impact towards bridging global economic disparities and inequalities. An enhanced means of implementation was essential, as were adequate financing and resources. Developed countries should demonstrate leadership and firm commitment in order to assist in eradicating unemployment, inequality and poverty in all its forms. North-South cooperation remained at the core of the global partnership for development, with South-South and triangular cooperation and the private sector acting as a complement to such cooperation, rather than as a substitute for it.

21. The international community, including the United Nations development system had to adapt to the paradigm shift that placed productive sectors at the heart of the global development agenda. Due attention must therefore be given to the economic dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The Group of 77 and China attached the utmost importance to actions giving priority to productive employment creation and dignified livelihoods, particularly for young people. Developing countries required strong support, particularly with regard to human and technological capacity development and innovation-led knowledge, in order to achieve the structural transformation and industrialization necessary for job creation, value addition and economic diversification.

22. The Group of 77 and China reiterated the importance of recognizing the diverse needs and challenges of countries in special situations, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges of middle-income countries, countries affected by terrorism and unilateral economic coercive measures, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. It

reaffirmed the importance of respecting the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial or foreign occupation and other forms of alien domination, and of respecting the independence of States, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs.

23. Climate change, which undermined the ability of countries to achieve sustainable development, should be considered as a sustainable development challenge and discussed within the proper context. Efforts must be made to adhere steadfastly to the Rio Principles, notably concerning common but differentiated responsibilities. The most affected and vulnerable countries should be given adequate support in addressing the challenges of climate change and the Group of 77 and China hoped that the Paris Climate Change Conference would yield an ambitious agreement.

24. The Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, which would be held for the first time in Africa in December 2015, would provide an opportunity to advance the Doha Round of trade negotiations. The international community was urged to give priority to addressing the imbalances and inequities in the current global trading system and agree on legally binding outcomes that would enable developing countries to engage effectively in equitable global trade.

25. **Mr. Minah** (Sierra Leone), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that, with one billion people still trapped in extreme poverty, it was absolutely critical for poverty eradication to remain an overarching goal of the post-2015 development agenda. A multifaceted approach for resource mobilization and a strengthened global partnership for development were required. Official Development Assistance (ODA), which remained the main source of external financing for many African countries, had declined for two consecutive years; the African Group called for the timely fulfilment of ODA commitments.

26. The African Group welcomed the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of a specific goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. At its recent summit meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, the African Union had resolved to take a number of measures, which, if implemented successfully, would ensure that Africa could produce enough food for its people, provide employment opportunities and help to

put Africa on a path towards poverty eradication. The development of the agricultural sector was central in addressing poverty and food security — two issues at the heart of Africa's development agenda. While some countries had made remarkable progress, many others continued to struggle with challenges threatening to reverse their development gains; he called on the Group of Eight to fulfil their commitments, particularly with regard to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

27. Three fifths of the countries in Africa were least developed countries, which remained vulnerable to external shocks. Those countries and others on the continent must continue to rebuild their fiscal buffers to counter the effects of the global economic slowdown. The international community should provide the necessary support to enable the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

28. Industrialization and structural transformation, including through economic diversification and value chains linking raw material producers to end-users, were essential to achieve the transformation of African economies. The African Group therefore attached priority to a development agenda that focused on job creation, particularly for young people.

29. Africa, which contributed the least to climate change, continued to be the most affected by it, and lacked the means and capacity for adaptation and mitigation. The African Group had high hopes of a major breakthrough at the Paris Climate Change Conference in December with a view to reaching a legally binding agreement in 2015.

30. Infrastructure deficit was one of the most serious challenges facing African countries, and the support of development partners was sought in implementing regional programmes, such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. African countries had also embarked on the pursuit of a new growth model to harness renewable energy with a view to achieving the three objectives of the Sustainable Development for All initiative.

31. **Mr. Percaya** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the year 2015 had been marked by the conclusion of important milestones in the efforts to achieve sustained and equitable prosperity through sustainable development. The Addis Ababa Action

Agenda would provide guidance in addressing the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its set of universal and transformative goals and targets, would serve as a guideline to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and address inequality.

32. The Committee must immediately facilitate the way towards the transformation envisioned in the 2030 Agenda, which had at its core the unification of economic, social and environmental pillars. Noting that success would depend on establishing the means of implementation and the necessary enabling environment at all levels, he said that ASEAN considered financing, the technology facilitation mechanism, and capacity-building to be three indispensable elements. Institutional measures were also necessary to drive collaboration, cooperation and partnership at the global, regional and national levels.

33. The United Nations development system would need to refashion itself to accommodate the changes necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda at the global level and respond to different country capacities and needs through different channels, including the regional and subregional commissions. Regional organizations, such as ASEAN, which stood ready to enhance its collaboration with the United Nations and the specialized agencies, should be involved in the general process. A renewed global partnership would support national efforts and was an effective instrument for mobilizing human, financial and technological resources.

34. A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework was vital to help countries track progress in implementing goals and targets; ASEAN looked forward to the completion of the global indicator framework in 2016. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as the main United Nations platform in the review of the 2030 Agenda, should work to complement and avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities within the United Nations system, in a cost-effective manner. The Committee should discuss further the modalities and operationalization of the Forum, enabling it to fulfil its mandate in a harmonized manner.

35. ASEAN hoped that the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference would produce a universal

agreement on climate change, honouring the principle of common but differentiated responsibility as well as respective capabilities in light of different national circumstances. While the developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions, honour their commitments on climate finance and strengthen climate resilience, countries in the developing world would do their utmost to contribute.

36. The ASEAN Community, which would be launched at the end of 2015 and consisted of political-security, economic and sociocultural pillars, envisioned a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, equitable economic development and full integration into the global economy. The ASEAN countries recognized the importance of considering the implementation of the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision alongside the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Economic integration would increase regional capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda.

37. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the international community should give focused attention to the individual and collective efforts of countries to graduate from least developed country status. Differential and preferential treatment for least developed countries should be maintained with a view to ensuring the sustainable development of all countries. Implementation by all stakeholders of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 would ensure that the target of halving the number of least developed countries by 2020 was achieved.

38. It was imperative to address the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries and to improve their productive capacity, including through industrialization, diversification and infrastructure development. Duty-free and quota-free market access of all products would enhance the economic performance of the least developed countries, and the further strengthening of Aid-for-Trade, including in ensuring that least developed countries received at least a 50 per cent share, would improve participation in the global value chain. The least developed countries should be supported in doubling their global share of exports by 2020 and in becoming fully integrated into the global trading system. Capacity-building and technical assistance should be provided to facilitate the process of accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

39. Recognizing the importance of modern technologies and innovation capacities, the Group of Least Developed Countries looked forward to the operationalization by the current session of the General Assembly of the Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation Supporting Mechanism. The provision of adequate funding would be key to the Bank's success.

40. The Group of Least Developed Countries reiterated the importance of establishing an international investment support centre for least developed countries, noting that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided a solid foundation on which to build. Member States must also work together to establish a crisis mitigation and resilience-building fund to protect least developed countries from external shocks and consolidate development gains.

41. It was a matter of concern that ODA, which continued to play a critical role in the development efforts of many least developed countries, had fallen for two consecutive years. He thanked those development partners that had reaffirmed their commitment to meet existing ODA targets, and recalled the call made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda encouraging providers to consider providing at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income to least developed countries. While developing countries in a position to do so should help the least developed countries, such assistance did not for substitute North-South support mechanisms.

42. The Group of Least Developed Countries hoped that an ambitious deal on the critical issue of climate change would be reached at the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Paris.

43. **Ms. Young** (Belize), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that Caribbean countries, like many small island developing States, had experienced mixed results from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which had not anticipated the accelerated phenomenon of climate change, the financial and economic meltdown, and energy and food crises. The global response to such issues had fallen to self-appointed clubs of major economic powers, such as the Group of 20, while sidelining the United Nations. Small States had not only been left with a limited say, but had also found themselves subject to banking and other standards that had further crippled their economies. Factors such

limited fiscal capacity, decreasing access to foreign direct investment and ODA, and sometimes unsustainable levels of government debt, had added to the many serious development challenges faced by small island developing States in the Caribbean and left those countries unable to meet expanded investment requirements for economic transformation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and economic and social infrastructure expansion.

44. While the United Nations had now regained lost ground in global governance, much remained to be done to ensure that the rising tide of development lifted all countries. The Committee must consider how its deliberations could synergize the processes and financing of the new agenda for sustainable development, while taking into account varying national circumstances. In its consideration of operational activities for development, it must begin to conceptualize agenda items in the broader context of the new policy environment. Some agenda items should be considered in conjunction with others, with rationalization of work with the Third Committee on cross-cutting social development issues, if necessary. Efforts should also be made to determine how the key deliverables of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda would be achieved. Important areas of follow-up included, as a matter of priority, establishing the global infrastructure forum and the technology facilitation mechanism, scaling up of international tax cooperation, enhancing support for debt sustainability, and developing methodologies that took account of the complex and diverse realities of middle-income countries. The specific needs and circumstances of the Caribbean small island developing States must be taken into consideration in the advancement of those new initiatives.

45. CARICOM looked forward to tangible progress in the system-wide support for the follow up and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, including consideration of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, progress on the partnership framework and measures to ensure that the concerns of small island developing States were fully integrated in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

46. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that climate change remained the most pressing sustainable development challenge for small island developing

States, with extreme weather events causing debilitating damage to infrastructure and reversing development gains. It was to be hoped that an ambitious and legally binding climate agreement would be reached at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference. Small island developing States should be involved in the decision-making and norm-setting processes of international financial institutions, and such institutions should take into account the specific challenges faced by those countries, including the economic impact of climate change. Criteria other than gross domestic product should be taken into account when determining eligibility for financing opportunities, and multidimensional measurements should be developed that took due account of the particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

47. It was very important to enhance the capacity of small island developing States in making sustainable use of fishery resources and developing related industries, while ensuring that those States did not bear a disproportionate burden for the conservation and management of ocean resources. Oceans and seas afforded a livelihood and provided economic opportunity in terms of coastal tourism and fisheries, were a significant part of cultural heritage, and offered substantial biodiversity for the global community.

48. AOSIS hoped that initiatives such as the development of the partnership framework under the SAMOA Pathway and consideration of the findings of the comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States would advance the sustainable development of those States. Small island developing States were committed to ensuring coherence among and within the various programmes of action, notably the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They looked forward to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and considered the means of implementation as well as the follow-up and review of each goal as a top priority in facilitating the achievement of specific commitments within the SAMOA Pathway.

49. **Ms. Kasese-Bota** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the economies of landlocked developing countries remained highly vulnerable to external shocks owing to such factors as limited export diversification and productive capacities, high trade and transport costs, inadequate infrastructure, and border and customs

inefficiencies. The current session of the Committee was expected to provide strategic guidance for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The effective implementation of the Vienna Programme, which went beyond the traditional issues of trade facilitation, logistics and transit transport and included such issues as regional integration, structural economic transformation and means of implementation, would contribute to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

50. Critical elements for accelerating the new development agenda were means of implementation, including financial resources and increased ODA for landlocked developing countries; domestic resource mobilization, enhancement of Aid for Trade and increased foreign direct investment; adequate technical assistance and capacity-building for expanding productive growth; and the strengthening of partnerships, especially with transit countries, development partners and the private sector and including South-South and triangular cooperation. There was also a need to focus on practical ways of incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans. Welcoming the establishment of a new forum to bridge the infrastructure gap, the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries called on multilateral and regional financial institutions and regional development banks to provide access to long-term financing at concessional and affordable rates, including the establishment of special dedicated funding mechanism.

51. The outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference should give due consideration to the particular challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. There should be special recognition of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including dedicated funding to assist in building resilience.

52. Noting the challenges that landlocked developing countries faced in integrating into global value chains, including exorbitant trade costs, reliance on exports of primary commodities and lack of diversification, and limited market access, she said that the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) would help to address some

fundamental transit policy issues. Special attention should be given to the concerns and needs of landlocked developing countries within the framework of WTO; all WTO members should launch a dedicated work programme for those countries focusing primarily on trade facilitation and diversification, services, Aid-for-Trade, e-commerce and WTO accession. The Group also called for increased support from the United Nations system and other stakeholders in strengthening national data systems and evaluation programmes.

53. **Mr. Vrailas** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, said that the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference should strengthen and highlight synergies between poverty eradication and the three pillars of sustainable development, as well as a commitment to tackling climate change. The European Union was fully committed to playing its part in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both in Europe and globally.

54. The Committee must review its agenda with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Discussions should be held with the Economic and Social Council on how best to avoid duplication. Noting the important role of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the establishment of a strong and integrated monitoring, accountability and review framework for the 2030 Agenda, he said that the European Union supported the roadmap of the United Nations Statistical Commission for the development of a global indicator framework. The European Union looked forward to the operationalization of a technology facilitation mechanism that was efficient, cost-effective and avoided duplication with other instruments. In that regard, it considered the empowerment and human rights of women and girls to be essential for progress on poverty eradication and sustainable development, including in post-conflict situations.

55. On the issue of climate change, bold action was needed to reduce emissions and build resilience. At the Paris Climate Change Conference, the European Union would seek a fair, ambitious and legally binding agreement, applicable to all, that covered both mitigation and adaptation, and that took into account

the needs of the most vulnerable countries and gave enhanced attention to the situation of small island developing States.

56. Noting the changes in the nature and magnitude of challenges in recent decades, he said that all countries would need to play their part in supporting those countries lagging furthest behind, such as the least developed countries and fragile countries. The European Union looked forward to the comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10). It also stressed the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It looked forward to further discussions on operational activities with a view to ensuring that the United Nations was fit for purpose, through reform of the United Nations system and its bodies and organs, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization and ensuring that it was able to address the complex multisectoral challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

57. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Egypt) said that the efforts made to achieve the MDGs must be followed up with a view to achieving the clear objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should play a leadership role in connection with the monitoring of 2030 Agenda, and State sovereignty and development policies must be taken into account when formulating socioeconomic development programmes at the national level.

58. Highlighting the importance of necessary resources, he called on developed countries to meet their commitments, particularly in terms of funding and technology transfer. It was a matter of concern that many had not yet mobilized 0.7 per cent of GNP as ODA, and the fall in ODA over the past two consecutive years was adversely affecting the capacity of countries to meet the challenges they faced. Coordinated and serious efforts were required to ensure that countries had the funds they needed to support their development efforts; Egypt welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 69/319 concerning basic principles on sovereign debt restructuring processes. Food security was an issue that deserved particular attention; importing countries must receive the necessary subsidies.

59. His delegation hoped that the forthcoming Paris Conference on Climate Change would succeed in reaching a balanced agreement which respected the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and provided for an approach based on cooperation and transparency.

60. Noting the importance of capacity-building and technology transfer, he called on the United Nations to pay greater attention to the challenges faced by middle-income countries.

61. **Ms. Bjaña** (Nicaragua) said that the full implementation of the MDGs and of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals required the establishment of a genuine global partnership providing for access to financial and technological resources. Unless there were changes in the current economic order, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would have no added value; Nicaragua called on the developed countries to implement fully their commitments, including by providing 0.7 per cent of gross national product as ODA.

62. The dialogue begun at the third International Conference on Financing for Development must continue with a view to finding solutions to the global economic crisis and determining a new international financial structure. The basic principles on sovereign debt restructuring processes set out in General Assembly resolution 69/319 should constitute the basis of any future agreement. South-South cooperation, which should address such issues as the knowledge and technology transfer and capacity-building, could never replace North-South cooperation. Her country had experienced sustained economic growth through disciplined fiscal, financial, monetary and exchange policies, which had contributed to a strong influx of foreign investment in recent years.

63. Within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nicaragua would continue to support efforts to reach a balanced and fair agreement in 2015 that respected the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Disaster risk reduction must be perceived as a development issue and, as agreed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), donors and the international community should be encouraged to enhance their support of disaster risk reduction efforts in developing countries.

64. Nicaragua reaffirmed its solidarity with the State of Palestine, and the right to development of the Palestinian people.

65. **Mr. Mackay** (Belarus) said that, in developing the 2030 Agenda, for the first time within the framework of the United Nations all Member States had come together to develop a complete vision of how to work collectively to improve the lives of peoples for the foreseeable future. Much remained to be done to ensure its successful implementation. The Committee must give impetus to the intellectual and practical work aimed at ensuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Like other bodies in the United Nations system, it should be a forum for a mutually beneficial dialogue on integrating integration and ensuring complementarity in integration models.

66. A key element in the new agenda was the recognition of the issues facing middle-income countries, given their dual role as both recipients and providers of assistance. He hoped that the Committee would be able to move forward on the question of more systematic and effective planning and interaction with middle-income countries within the framework of the United Nations.

67. With regard to means of implementation, the United Nations needed to enhance the effectiveness of its operational activities, and all States concerned must comply fully with their commitments concerning development finance. The assistance provided by the United Nations must be backed up by core resources, ensuring the effectiveness and independence of the United Nations development system. The technology facilitation mechanism was a key element, and Belarus, which considered the issues of technology and energy to be inextricably linked, stood ready to ensure that the transfer of technology, including of energy-related technologies, contributed fully to sustainable development. Due consideration should be given to the availability and accessibility of green technologies, and the interests of all interested countries and categories of countries, including middle-income countries, should be taken into account.

68. Belarus reiterated its position on the need to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures and sanctions, which had no place in the achievement of sustainable development, for which multilateral cooperation was essential.

69. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that, as a result of sustained economic growth and the effective implementation of social inclusion programmes, Peru had managed to achieve a significant reduction in inequality and poverty, with the proportion of the population living in poverty falling from more than one half to under one fifth in only one generation. In order to ensure that those gains were irreversible, efforts must be made to invest more in childhood, continue to empower women, and promote the diversification of production through equitable access of the citizenry to science and technology. Peru, which welcomed the establishment of the technology facilitation mechanism, was convinced that democratic governance favoured the social inclusion necessary for development.

70. Efforts must be made to enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the United Nations system and international financial institutions so as to enable them to adapt to new global realities, while safeguarding their intergovernmental character and at the same time revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The High-level Political Forum and the Economic and Social Council should promote strengthened follow-up and review mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels, and the General Assembly should play a leading role in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular through the Second Committee.

71. Recalling the Lima Call for Climate Action, he said that the 2030 agenda would not be complete without an ambitious, universal and legally binding agreement addressing the challenge of climate change. He also called for efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction and prevention and provide increased assistance, especially to the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.