

**General Assembly**

Sixty-ninth session

Official RecordsDistr.: General
8 December 2014

Original: English

Second Committee**Summary record of the 13th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 16 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Francis (Vice-Chair). (Bahamas)**Contents**Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)

- (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*)
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)
- (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)
- (g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (*continued*)
- (h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*)
- (i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

14-62765 (E)



Please recycle



In the absence of Mr. Cardi (Italy), Ms. Tishka Francis (Bahamas), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)
(A/69/76, A/69/215, A/69/257, A/69/309, A/69/313, A/69/320 and A/69/380)

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (*continued*) (A/68/970; A/69/79, A/69/312, A/69/315, A/69/326, A/69/379, A/69/392 and A/69/395; A/C.2/69/2)
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** (*continued*) (A/CONF.223/10; A/69/314 and A/69/319)
- (c) **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** (*continued*) (A/69/364 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** (*continued*) (A/69/317 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** (*continued*) (A/69/311, A/69/317 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** (*continued*) (A/69/317 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (g) **Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme** (*continued*) (A/69/25 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (h) **Harmony with Nature** (*continued*) (A/69/322 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (i) **Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy** (*continued*) (A/69/323, A/69/392 and A/69/395; A/C.2/69/2)

1. **Mr. Emvula** (Namibia) said that achieving sustainable and balanced global growth would require

close coordination of macroeconomic policy decisions with other areas of global governance, including the multilateral trading system, aid architecture, poverty eradication, sustainable development and climate change. Namibia therefore welcomed the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

2. The process for the post-2015 development agenda provided a platform to consider to what extent developing countries had attained the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to reflect on new and emerging challenges. For Africa, the African common position was a vehicle to coherently mainstream the needs and aspirations of the region's people in the post-2015 development goals.

3. Poverty eradication must remain the central and overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda, and Namibia strongly supported the view that the agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty in all its forms by 2030. However, without predictable and reliable means of implementation, the post-2015 development agenda would not achieve its targets; therefore, it was crucial to strengthen the global partnership to effectively mobilize all public, private, domestic and international resources. The upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development would be crucial in formulating a comprehensive approach for strengthening international cooperation for development and finding additional and innovative sources of financing.

4. As developing countries suffered the most from the adverse impacts of climate change, his delegation called for a new legally binding climate agreement that was effective, durable and comprehensive, and which balanced support for mitigation and adaptation. Namibia was a country with special needs in the broadest context of sustainable development. Its harsh environmental constraints and unique agricultural limits made it extremely vulnerable to external shocks, drought and land degradation. It called for the implementation of the Plan of Action and the Namib Declaration adopted at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

5. Desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change were closely interwoven, fuelling each other in a cycle that impeded global efforts to achieve

sustainable development. Therefore, in future climate change agreements emphasis should be placed on land-based approaches to adaptation in order to build resilience to climatic shocks and improve the coping capacity of the land. Moreover, desertification, land degradation and drought, besides corroding the three pillars of sustainable development, entrenched poverty, threatened food security, destabilized societies and undermined progress. Through its efforts with the Group of Friends on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, Namibia was committed to achieving a land-degradation-neutral world.

6. As peace and security were prerequisites for sustainable development, Namibia believed in the importance of reforming and democratizing the international economic, monetary and financial institutions to better serve developmental needs.

7. **Ms. Chow** (Singapore) said that achieving sustainable development was not a zero-sum game but about learning to achieve more with less. The realization of sustainable development in an interdependent world required collective resolve from the international community, as demonstrated by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. While the work of the United Nations in developing a global sustainable agenda had drawn its fair share of cynicism, with some critics calling the proposed sustainable development goals meaningless or improbable, her delegation strongly believed that a global development agenda was needed to catalyse national actions and encourage Governments, NGOs, private players and the community to form effective partnerships and achieve more through cooperative actions.

8. Given its development experience, Singapore would continue to contribute to global efforts to chart a sustainable development pathway for the world, especially in the areas of urbanization, water and sanitation. In line with proposed sustainable development goal 6, on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, Singapore looked forward to the commemoration on 19 November 2014 of World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All as a step in furthering the cause.

9. As a small low-lying coastal city in South-East Asia, Singapore shared vulnerabilities and concerns with other small island developing States. It had been honoured to co-chair the Preparatory Committee of the

third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. While the SAMOA Pathway outcome document marked the international community's acknowledgement of the irrefutable need to address the social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States, the implementation of the Pathway would be the next crucial milestone. To contribute to the implementation process, Singapore had prepared a dedicated three-year technical cooperation package under the Singapore Cooperation Programme to provide more customized technical assistance and fellowships in areas that were relevant to small island developing States' capacity-building needs.

10. Singapore believed that it was key to first pursue the appropriate policies and actions for sustainable development at the national level, and that development should not come at the expense of living environment quality. Although Singapore was a small, highly urbanized city State, it had successfully integrated an extensive network of greenery and recreational water into its city infrastructure. The urban environment remained liveable, clean and green without impeding significant economic progress. Despite its scarcity of water, Singapore ensured that every person had access to clean, affordable and drinkable water. It intended to review the relevance of its sustainable development strategies before the end of 2014 in the light of rising urban density, climate change and other environmental concerns.

11. Its small size notwithstanding, Singapore was committed to having a significant impact on sustainable development. The international community's efforts during the General Assembly would determine whether the Rio+20 aspiration of "The future we want" could move from rhetoric to reality.

12. **Mr. Rimouche** (Algeria), emphasizing the importance of sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and future climate change agreements, said that sustainable development currently shaped many different areas of daily life, including ways of thinking, acting, producing and consuming goods.

13. His delegation believed that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) had been a crucial step towards renewing the international community's commitment to the accelerated

implementation of Agenda 21, with particular reference to poverty reduction and sustainable development. However, the Rio+20 Conference had also highlighted the mitigated successes in achieving the MDGs, including non-compliance on the part of the developed countries with their commitment to provide the developing world with the means to both realize the MDGs and economic development and protect the environment.

14. Algeria, which was a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, subscribed to the Group's report and emphasized the responsibility that developed countries had to fully implement their commitments. It welcomed the Group's decision to include a specific goal on strengthening the means of implementation, as well as to associate each sustainable development goal with the means of implementation.

15. The proposed sustainable development goals must reflect in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. His Government called on the international community to strengthen cooperation and make a more deliberate effort to honour the commitments assumed at various international conferences. It looked forward to the completion of the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the elaboration of a technology facilitation mechanism.

16. His Government welcomed the proclamation of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States and the adoption of the Samoa Pathway at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, both events reflecting the need to address the specific challenges of those States and fulfil prior commitments to help them effectively plan for their future. It endorsed the statement in the Samoa Pathway that small island developing States presented a unique challenge for sustainable development and recognized that the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation and the Samoa Pathway must all be taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda.

17. Algeria was determined to contribute to the global effort against climate change by monitoring how the needs and priorities of populations were fulfilled in terms of social and economic development. The

country had launched many new programmes and actions to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development, especially in the domains of renewable energy, the fight against desertification and land degradation, sustainable transport, and waste management and reuse.

18. The negotiations on climate change should lead to the adoption at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris of an ambitious new agreement, which must address adaptation, mitigation, financing, technology transfers and capacity-building through a robust, transparent mechanism based on the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

19. Desertification, posed a danger to a large number of countries, especially in Africa, threatened food security and held back development, particularly with regard to agriculture and livestock. Combating desertification must be a priority at the national and international levels. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of international support and financial resources for national plans of action in countries affected by desertification, the goals of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification were not being attained. His Government therefore called for the implementation of the decisions made during the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in September 2013, with a view to strengthening the Convention's mechanisms.

20. Due to its geographical situation and climate, Algeria was particularly exposed to desertification and had incorporated anti-desertification measures in its development policies. In addition to an afforestation programme, the Government was implementing a national action plan to combat desertification, and it had established a commissariat for steppe development and a council for the environment and sustainable development. The Green Dam, an important 300,000 hectare-project in the fight against land degradation would receive an extension of 100,000 hectares in 2015, in addition to 3 million hectares of esparto cover. However, without concerted action by the international community, countries afflicted by desertification and land degradation would see their efforts doomed to failure.

21. Biological diversity contributed significantly to sustainable development and the well-being of developing populations, in particular on the social, economic, scientific, educational and cultural levels. His Government called on the international community to form cooperative partnerships and engage in knowledge-sharing in order to conserve and sustainably exploit biological resources, with a view to achieving the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was necessary to increase international financing for developing countries in terms of the sustainable use of biodiversity by 2015. In addition, greater clarity regarding new markets, offsets and financial mechanisms was required, especially in relation to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. In 2014, Algeria had passed a law on biological resources; the law could be extended in the future to cover genetic resources in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol. The country was also about to submit its fifth report on the national strategy for implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity.

22. The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly had provided an opportunity to discuss the environment on an equal footing with questions related to peace, security, finance, trade and health. The strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme's role was one of the first concrete achievements of "The future we want" agenda developed at the Rio+20 Conference. His delegation wished to highlight the importance of developing a post-2015 development agenda that fully integrated the three dimensions of sustainable development in a coherent and balanced manner and that was centred on actions to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and encourage inclusive social and economic development in harmony with nature.

23. In order to create the proper conditions for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy sources in developing countries, it was necessary that developed countries should participate in financing, technology transfer and capacity-building activities. Algeria was aiming to install 22,000 MW of renewable capacity by 2030. Promising results had already been achieved in terms of renewable electricity, and Algeria had reached its national renewable energy goals for 2013, an achievement which had earned it a fifth-place ranking for installed capacity of concentrated solar power generation.

24. **Mr. Alsahlawi** (United Arab Emirates) said that the key principles espoused by the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference all focused on the elimination of poverty and the achievement of social, economic and environmental development. It was necessary to take into account the needs of developing countries and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. International partnerships must be strengthened in order to ensure that developing countries had the resources necessary for capacity-building and access to modern technologies.

25. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals as a necessary tool for the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda that would address the issues of energy for all, the green economy, food security, potable water and gender equality. The United Arab Emirates was planning for the future by investing in sources of sustainable and environmentally friendly energy, which would lay the foundations for a green economy.

26. Forty-one years earlier, the founder of the United Arab Emirates had drawn attention to ways of protecting of the environment, arguing that populations should take only what they needed and preserve the rest for future generations. As part of that strategy, the country had invested in renewable energy, primarily wind and solar, and it now boasted the world's largest solar plant, the first of its kind in the Middle East. Those initiatives were expected to result in a 20 per cent reduction in the emissions produced by electricity generation by 2020. A new set of guidelines was expected to make buildings 20 per cent more efficient.

27. His Government had given over \$500 million dollars in grants and low-interest loans to promote renewable energies in developing countries. The United Arab Emirates hosted the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency and cooperated with the Agency on the Africa Clean Energy Corridor and the Small Island Developing States–Lighthouses Initiative. The country would host Expo 2020 Dubai in order to build new partnerships to find, preserve and efficiently manage renewable sources of energy and water. The World Future Energy Summit, to be held in Abu Dhabi from 19 to 22 January 2015, would also seek to foster dialogue and cooperation in that area.

28. **Mr. Sylla** (Senegal) said that his delegation welcomed the useful conclusions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the move to adopt the proposed goals in the post-2015 development agenda.

29. The high-level political forum on sustainable development had highlighted the need to review the forum's working methods. Given its specificity, the forum should improve its decision-making mechanisms, more clearly define the role of various actors, narrow its working focus and develop an appropriate framework for monitoring the progress made. His delegation therefore invited the forum to host future discussions on the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism to help developing countries. It would also be useful to hold exchanges on sustainable development financing, which was a crucial issue for the global South.

30. As reforms would not be meaningful unless they had a tangible positive impact on development, his Government believed that the post-2015 development agenda should focus on poverty eradication and adopt a coherent approach that integrated the three pillars of sustainable development in a balanced fashion. The priorities of Africa, the least developed countries, the small island developing States, the landlocked developing countries and the middle-income countries should all be considered in the process.

31. In order to address the issue of sustainable development, it was necessary to prioritize the sustainable management of natural resources, adaptation to climate change and sustainable land management, inclusive economic growth and sustainable modes of production and consumption. Climate change, loss of biodiversity and land degradation increased the vulnerability of human populations, impaired the quality of life and eroded economic potential. It was therefore crucial to adopt, at the 2015 Climate Change Conference, a new, legally binding global agreement on climate and to work on the effective implementation of Green Climate Fund decisions, the transfer of ecologically sound technologies and the use of anti-deforestation mechanisms.

32. The irreversible degradation of forest ecosystems and subsequent loss of biodiversity was further exacerbated by the growing illegal timber trade. Senegal therefore strongly advocated the establishment

of a global forest fund and reaffirmed its commitment to the development of a legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Lastly, his delegation encouraged all States to actively prepare for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, with a view to establishing a new coherent and effective mechanism for disaster resilience that would build on the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015.

33. **Ms. Ariffin** (Brunei Darussalam) said that, although poverty eradication remained the main focus of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, other areas, including the environment and the protection of biological diversity, were equally important, inasmuch as they contributed significantly to the process of sustainable development.

34. Her Government recognized that healthy ecosystems and biodiversity resources contributed significantly to the sustainable livelihoods of people, especially in developing countries, as well as to their national economies, and it commended the efforts that Member States were making to conserve their ecosystems. However, it believed that economic growth and the protection of the environment should be in balance and that neither should compromise the other. It supported the Convention on Biological Diversity and recognized the Convention's contribution to sustainable development with regard to its own national and global agendas in areas such as food security, the provision of clean air and water, health of the population and their livelihood, while also providing a forum for collaboration with other experts regarding biodiversity.

35. As 75 per cent of Brunei Darussalam was covered by tropical rainforest, the country placed great importance on the maintenance and conservation of ecosystems. It would continue to play an active role in protecting the environment by using the ecosystem approach, wherein its forests were the sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases that caused an increase in global temperature. In order to successfully achieve that objective, Brunei Darussalam had institutionalized and implemented several national policies and plans to protect the environment, including the preservation of biological diversity, tree planting and awareness-raising campaigns.

36. In view of the importance of further research on biodiversity, the country continued to offer its tropical rainforests for the purposes of research, particularly on

terrestrial flora and fauna, marine life, forest microbes and microorganisms. One of its universities had participated in the International Consortium of Universities for the study of Biodiversity and the Environment. In addition, her Government was committed to responsible agricultural practices and had limited agricultural production to no more than 1 per cent of the land area. Technological advances, agricultural mechanization and a higher variety of crops were being explored as ways to achieve food security.

37. At the subregional level, since 2005, Brunei Darussalam had been actively involved with Malaysia and Indonesia in a tripartite forest conservation initiative known as “The Heart of Borneo”, which covered 58 per cent of the country’s total land area. It hoped to increase its engagement in the Coral Triangle Initiative, which aimed to protect both terrestrial and marine biodiversity resources.

38. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that, in order to achieve sustainable development, it was necessary to put in place policies that would eliminate the negative effects of climate change, reduce and manage disaster risks, minimize the impact on the environment of the growing demand for energy, preserve biodiversity and traditional knowledge, and sustainably manage forests. All of those objectives must be integrated into the broader goals of poverty eradication, the securing of financing and other resources, and the transfer of technology.

39. His Government regarded the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as one of the most important steps in the shift towards the achievement of sustainable development. In the context of a post-2015 development agenda that put people and the protection of their dignity at its heart, it believed that States should have the necessary skills to make those goals viable, without preconditions, in their quest to eradicate poverty and inequality through social inclusion and the right to development.

40. His delegation underscored that sustainable development could be attained only if the principles at the heart of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol — the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of its benefits and of associated traditional knowledge — were respected.

41. His Government remained concerned about the issue of biopiracy, which included the illegal access to, use and exploitation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge and significantly harmed native and local communities. It was similarly invested in protecting forests, especially since more than 60 per cent of the national territory was forestland. It attached the utmost importance to the value of forests, not only from an environmental standpoint, but above all for their interrelationship with human life. No sustainable economic development could exist at the expense of forestland, and it would therefore continue to fight deforestation.

42. His delegation reiterated the importance that his country placed on disaster risk reduction, management and resiliency, especially in the light of the climate change impacts that had increased the frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Poverty and underdevelopment also increased vulnerability to disasters. Consequently, climate change was one of the gravest risks facing humanity, threatening not only development but the very existence of societies and countries. His Government reaffirmed the necessity of respecting the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and had agreed to host the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties in Lima in December 2014.

43. **Ms. Strickland-Simonet** (Samoa) said that, as an island with much to lose from the impacts of climate change, Samoa had put the environmental issue on the international agenda 22 years before, at the Earth Summit in Rio. The country’s message was the same today as it had been in 1992: climate change was a global problem, yet international action to address it remained grossly inadequate.

44. For Samoa, climate change and sea-level rise were serious concerns, given that 70 per cent of the population and infrastructure were located in low-lying coastal areas. Although before 1990 Samoa had been a cyclone-free zone, since that year the country had experienced frequent and severe weather events, costing millions of dollars and forcing the relocation of entire communities. Consequently, the country placed great importance on disaster risk reduction and looked forward to a positive outcome at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

45. Although her Government recognized the critical role that sustainable energy, including enhanced

accessibility to modern energy services, energy efficiency and the use of economically viable and environmentally sound technology, played in its sustainable development, the country's heavy reliance on fossil fuels was a major source of economic vulnerability. It had committed to achieving 20 per cent carbon neutrality by 2030 and would reduce its dependence on fossil fuels by 10 per cent by 2016. It continued to encourage the use of new and renewable sources of energy.

46. One of the key outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the reaffirmation that small island developing States presented a special case for sustainable development due to their unique and particular vulnerabilities. In turn, the Samoa Pathway, adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, charted the course for managing small island developing States' sustainable development priorities for the present and the immediate future; the implementation of the Pathway and operationalizing its partnerships were at the top of the agenda for those States. The Second Committee of the General Assembly was now tasked with the responsibility of laying out an effective framework to guarantee the timely and effective follow-up of the commitments made in the Samoa Pathway. The resolution should provide for the following: a partnership framework designed to ensure that the partnerships for small island developing States launched in Samoa were fully implemented and would cover the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy as well as the Samoa Pathway; a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States; the integration of the Samoa Pathway into the post-2015 development agenda and the proposed sustainable development goals; and the creation of a robust global monitoring system that would strengthen accountability at all levels and ensure adequate and timely analysis and update regarding the implementation of all programmes.

47. Her Government called on all the partners of small island developing States to ensure enhanced support for them and the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. Due consideration must likewise be given to small island developing States at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. While 2014 had been designated as the year of small island developing States and thus had garnered attention for

them, her delegation hoped that the international community would continue to heed the realities of those States during the transition to the post-2015 development agenda.

48. **Ms. Haynes** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the international community should be focused on the following priorities during the transition to the post-2015 development agenda: renewing the commitment to achieving the MDGs; operationalizing "The future we want" agenda; revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development; addressing the mitigation gap for keeping the rise of global average temperatures to below 2 degrees or 1.5 degrees Celsius; and achieving an ambitious legally binding agreement on climate change in 2015.

49. Trinidad and Tobago had had some success in implementing the MDGs, particularly in the area of education, but needed to do further work in regard to health, especially pre- and post-natal health care and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Her delegation was therefore pleased that the proposed sustainable development goals would integrate and carry forward the unfinished MDG agenda, while also including new issues pertinent to sustainable development. The present challenges caused by non-communicable diseases and the re-emergence of the Ebola and chikungunya viruses had served to highlight the underlying fragility of health systems in the developing world, an issue that must be addressed in the post-2015 agenda. The 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets developed through the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals were at the core of the post-2015 development agenda and were not to be renegotiated.

50. With regard to Trinidad and Tobago's own national development framework for 2015-2021, provision was already being made to incorporate sustainable development strategies based on the proposed goals and other priority areas of the post-2015 development agenda and aligned with national priorities. As a small island developing State, Trinidad and Tobago's national development priorities were strategically focused on the effective promotion and management of human creativity and innovation for long-term sustainability and resilience. Consequently, Agenda 21 would also include a national spatial development strategy, a national innovation policy, a national population policy and a national manpower strategy.

51. The post-2015 development agenda must remain focused on monitoring and implementation, with a view to building the capacity of developing countries by strengthening their data collection and statistical systems and thereby improving their evidence-based decision-making. At the same time, reporting requirements must be harmonized in the context of a fully integrated agenda, so that developing countries with institutional capacity constraints were not overburdened by reporting. Her Government likewise called for the full integration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

52. Critical issues for small island developing States, such as the challenges arising from their graduation from least developed status, access to financing for sustainable development, energy security, trade imbalances, the increasing urgency of addressing climate change and the growing sovereign debt crisis, could be addressed only in the context of an effective global partnership for sustainable development. Essential elements of that partnership would include the development of a means of assessing the development progress of small island developing States that went beyond the measurement of gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, together with the establishment of a global compact to build resilience for those States. Such a compact must address the systemic difficulties of the existing global financial system and the resulting myriad of adverse impacts on small, open and vulnerable economies.

53. The implementation of the Samoa Pathway, the Barbados Programme and the Mauritius Strategy should be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda and mirrored in the high-level political forum. There should be no repetition of the previous disconnect between the small island developing States process and the broader MDG agenda, which had resulted in a lack of coordination, misallocation of resources and needless duplication at the national level.

54. In its continuing efforts to reduce its negligible carbon footprint, Trinidad and Tobago had: increased the use of innovative technologies that generated lower levels of emissions; encouraged the use of clean energy technology such as natural gas and clean production; promoted the use of renewable energies with zero emissions; and adopted more energy-efficient technologies and practices. The national development

strategy was focused on integrating the three pillars of sustainable development and diversifying away from dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.

55. Her delegation reiterated the call for the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism within the framework of the United Nations, in order to advance the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency strategies and practices at the regional and national levels through access to appropriate technologies.

56. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that Mozambique was highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including drought, flooding, tropical cyclones, storm surges, and changing temperature and precipitation patterns, as well as such other phenomena as sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion and forest wildfires. Such events had caused the loss of human lives and significant destruction of public and private property and social infrastructure, thereby negatively impacting economic growth and the achievement of poverty eradication and the other MDGs. His Government's commitment to sustainable development was therefore not an option but rather a conscientious decision to ensure the well-being of the people and Mozambique's territorial integrity. It had adopted a poverty reduction strategy that, while people-centred, addressed sustainable development, good governance, environmental issues and disaster risk reduction, as well as social needs.

57. His Government had put in place a national climate change strategy that aimed at increasing resilience, while promoting low-carbon development and the green economy, and that had succeeded in improving institutional coordination. Other measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters had led to: greater preparedness and an early warning system for cyclones and floods; cooperation agreements for water resources, which served as a platform for coordinating efforts and exchanging information with upstream countries; the creation of resettlement areas for people who inhabited high-risk zones; and the consolidation of the emergency and disaster management system, which had resulted in more rapid responses in cases of emergency.

58. Mozambique's national climate change strategy had also identified opportunities for mitigation and low-carbon development, with the goal of improving access to renewable energy, increasing energy

efficiency and promoting low-carbon urbanization. Renewable energy currently reached 14 per cent of the population, and it was expected that by 2030 Mozambique's energy matrix would be composed of 55 per cent renewable resources.

59. Recognizing the important role of renewable energy for sustainable development, in 2011 his Government had adopted a strategy for the development of new and renewable energy, which aimed to improve access to better-quality energy services using renewable sources, to develop a sound technology for the conversion and use of renewable energy, and to promote and accelerate public and private investment in renewable resources.

60. Achieving sustainable development required the continual strengthening of international cooperation between developing countries and their development partners, in particular with regard to technology transfer, financing and capacity-building in the spirit of Agenda 21. Mozambique was committed to the global effort to deliver a post-2015 development agenda that would adequately respond to the quest for a world fit for all.

61. **Mr. Mahmaminov** (Tajikistan) said that the post-2015 development agenda must be based on the foundation laid down by the MDGs and focus on eradicating poverty and inequality and promoting sustainable development. The major prerequisites for sustainable development should be the promotion of sustainable models of production and consumption, the protection and rational use of natural resources and the promotion of sustainable economic growth, social integration and improved living standards and employment opportunities for all. His Government supported the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. It trusted that the high-level political forum on sustainable development would establish an efficient universal platform for the integration of the three components of sustainable development, as well as for dialogue, review of progress and the development and harmonizing of programmes and actions for the promotion of sustainable development.

62. Experience had shown that it was impossible to achieve the development goals without providing reliable and universal access to energy. The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024) would provide a unique opportunity to

make progress in that area. In addition, it was necessary to promote investment in renewable energy, the transfer of modern and advanced technologies, energy supply efficiency and energy conservation.

63. The integrated development of hydroenergy, coupled with other types of renewable energy, not only allowed for increased capacity, but also contributed to sustainability and enhanced energy systems efficiency, while considerably reducing detrimental emissions. As Tajikistan possessed substantial hydroenergy potential, the country was making every effort to ensure the integrated development of its energy sector.

64. As stated in the Rio+20 outcome document, water was at the core of sustainable development and closely linked to a number of key global challenges. The International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005–2015, included among its goals increased focus on the implementation of water-related programmes, the participation of women in water-related development efforts and cooperation to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals. The Decade had provided a powerful impetus for various initiatives aimed at promoting access to fresh drinking water and sanitation, integrating water resource management, expanding water resource cooperation and increasing awareness of water-related challenges. His delegation believed that it would be timely to hold a high-level interactive dialogue at the current session of the General Assembly to evaluate the progress made during the Decade. His delegation had therefore circulated a draft resolution with a view to conducting such an evaluation and to discussing further ways of achieving the sustainable development of water resources.

65. **Ms. Bolaños Pérez** (Guatemala) said that, with regard to the implementation of Agenda 21, her delegation welcomed the adoption of resolution 68/309 on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and resolution 68/310 on possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism. There was a close link between the implementation of Agenda 21 and the elaboration of a post-2015 development agenda, and the resolutions mentioned should therefore be taken into account. A technology facilitation mechanism would be a key means of implementing the post-2015 agenda.

66. One of the impacts of climate change had been to increase the frequency and intensity of natural

disasters, thereby making disaster risk reduction an important issue. The Central American and Caribbean regions had recently suffered from an extended drought, which had affected more than 1.2 million people in Guatemala alone, including half a million children under five. The Government had therefore declared a state of public emergency, which had accounted for a reduction of five per cent in its GDP. It hoped that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction would take into account the post-2015 development agenda in its conclusions.

67. As an extremely diverse country with a rich cultural and natural heritage, Guatemala welcomed the recent adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. Although Guatemala produced low levels of greenhouse gas emissions, the Government was taking action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and trusted that ambitious results would be achieved at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, especially in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology transfers, prior to the adoption of a legally binding instrument at the twenty-first session in 2015.

68. In order to achieve sustainable development, it was vital to eradicate poverty and hunger, as the poorest communities were those most dependent on natural resources. To that end, the international community should adopt a broader approach to sustainable development by taking into consideration the major multidimensional challenges that countries faced in eradicating poverty.

69. **Mr. Hajilari** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, while many of the basic elements of the post-2015 development agenda were already in place, including the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, there were several important issues that had yet to be discussed. First, capacity-building for developing countries should be given priority attention and should include the exchange of experience and know-how, technology transfer and preferential policy treatment. Secondly, systemic issues should be addressed, including the required policy space for developing countries because of differing needs, the reform of the international financial system, the shift to an open, rule-based, non-discriminatory and equitable international financial and economic system, and the development of a new and strengthened global

partnership. Thirdly, major players in the international financial and economic sphere whose policies posed significant challenges to the development of others should be held accountable. Fourthly, other root causes holding back development, including various forms of foreign occupation and colonial domination and the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions, should be eliminated. Fifthly, there should be follow-up, oversight and implementation of the agreed development goals.

70. Desertification, land degradation, drought, sandstorms and dust storms were phenomena that threatened the three pillars of sustainable development in many countries, including Iran, and deserved particular attention.. Addressing those phenomena would enable countries to deal with several global policy challenges, including food security and adaptation to climate change. In line with the implementation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from global and regional cooperation in combating those phenomena should be encouraged.

71. As a natural-disaster-prone country, Iran had developed an internationally recognized and effective disaster-preparedness and response capacity at the national and local levels, but disaster prevention and risk reduction would continue to require extensive longer-term efforts. Illegal and inhumane sanctions imposed on Iran had significantly impeded the country's efforts to achieve the strategic goals outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action, including the increase of seismic or earthquake monitoring instruments and the upgrading of early warning systems.

72. The mandate of the high-level political forum to follow up the implementation of development commitments, including monitoring and reviewing progress in achieving the proposed sustainable development goals, should not be compromised, and control over any implementation or monitoring mechanism should lie with the forum and remain intergovernmental.

73. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that the post-2015 development agenda should seek to further integrate the three pillars of sustainable development through international partnerships aligned with national policies. The report of the Open Working Group on

Sustainable Development Goals and the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing together constituted an outstanding example of an international partnership on sustainable development for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of development level, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

74. Kuwait had participated in all regional and international efforts to achieve sustainable development, reach consensus on a post-2015 development agenda and create synergies with the private sector, civil society, charities and academic institutions. His delegation looked forward to the implementation of the outcomes of the high-level political forum, which had been held from 30 June to 9 July 2014 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. It would be useful to focus on developing data collection and evaluation systems to quantify development gains. Other areas that required attention included climate change, human rights and freedoms, energy, governance, minorities and migrants, technology and innovation, combating corruption, the empowerment of younger persons and the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities.

75. Kuwait had made excellent progress in working towards the MDGs, three of which it had realized ahead of schedule. His delegation shared the international community's concern regarding climate change, particularly desertification and drought, and had played an active role in negotiations to formulate a response to those issues.

76. **Ms. Shekriladze** (Georgia) said that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was an important contribution to the development of the post-2015 development framework. Geographical differences notwithstanding, every country faced more or less similar challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, including climate change and the related negative effects, which were making many regions vulnerable to natural disasters. The consequences of natural disasters were more severe when nature was already under heavy pressure from population increases and the unsustainable use of natural resources.

77. In Georgia, storms and coastal erosion had intensified, resulting in severe damage to coastlines and man-made infrastructures. Extreme weather

events, including drought and floods, had significantly impacted the economy and posed serious threats to agriculture.

78. The new 2015 climate agreement must strengthen efforts to help the most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and must contribute to achieving climate-resilient sustainable development. It should be legally binding and should put the world on track to hold the increase in global average temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius. It must build on the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage. The executive committee of the mechanism should be fully equipped and should focus on the vulnerabilities of developing countries and the identification of specific needs.

79. Her Government would formulate its intended nationally determined contribution ahead of the 2015 session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris. The progressive actions it had already taken included: a low-emission development strategy, prepared with the help of the United States Government; nationally appropriate mitigation actions in both the forestry sector, supported by the Austrian Government, and the energy efficiency sector, supported by the German Government; and the strengthening of vertical integration mechanisms between the central Government and the subnational and local levels of government to address climate change and especially greenhouse gases.

80. International practice had shown that developing sustainable energy could play a key role in mitigating climate change. Her Government had consequently launched a new strategy aimed at enhancing renewable energy development and realizing the country's immense untapped potential of wind, solar, geothermal and especially hydro resources. Due to its vast hydropower capacity, Georgia was already using renewable energy to provide more than 80 per cent of its electricity and sought to become a regional hub for generating and exporting clean energy. By developing renewable energy resources, promoting energy efficiency, properly managing forests and supporting local climate action, her Government hoped to make Georgia carbon neutral by 2050.

81. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Ukraine) said that his Government welcomed the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and expected it to contribute constructively to the effective realization of

Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. His Government fully supported the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and commended the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme for reaffirming its commitment to "The future we want" outcome document.

82. In signing the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement, his Government had affirmed its willingness to conduct existing national programmes in accordance with European Union standards. In that context, it welcomed the initiative to integrate the Rio Conventions into Ukraine's national environmental policy framework.

83. Despite experiencing recent hardships as a result of conflict, Ukraine's commitment to sustainable development had been articulated through various multi-stakeholder initiatives. It believed that particular attention should be paid to social media initiatives aimed at increasing awareness for sustainable development issues with the help of modern technological capabilities. Such initiatives aligned with Ukraine's ambition to provide extensive technology education programmes.

84. It was essential to raise awareness about the role of human agency in preserving the environment, as well as in eradicating poverty, ensuring demographic stability, mitigating the consequences of disasters, pursuing balanced economic development and promoting the rational use of resources. Since government efforts and political will could not alone promote sustainable development, his Government looked to broad alliances of people and the joint efforts of well-informed communities, civil society organizations, business structures and scientists to bring about transformative progress. It urged Member States to recognize the importance of education and of empowering communities by providing them with the necessary information, knowledge and responsibility to achieve people-centric and inclusive sustainable development goals.

85. **Ms. Dhital** (Nepal) said that the means of implementation identified in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development were indispensable in achieving the full

and effective translation of sustainable development commitments into tangible outcomes. The post-2015 development agenda should be based on universal human rights, inclusiveness and sustainability, should place poverty eradication at the centre of development and should maintain a proper balance between the three pillars of sustainable development. Ambitious goals and targets should be matched by adequate means of implementation in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

86. The compounded effects of climate change had severely impacted almost all of Nepal's development sectors, thereby undermining its efforts to achieve sustainable development, poverty eradication and economic growth. Unless urgent action was taken, the consequences would be irreversible and unbearable. Her Government attached great importance to the ongoing negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and looked forward to the conclusion of a legally binding climate instrument in 2015.

87. Nepal had prepared a national adaptation programme of action on climate change and a framework for a local adaptation plan of action. The increased frequency and scale of natural disasters were having long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences in many developing countries. There was an urgent need for capacity-building in those countries in the areas of disaster preparedness and post-disaster management activities.

88. Sustainable mountain development in Nepal was of vital importance not only to address biodiversity loss, resource depletion and environmental degradation due to climate change, but also to preserve and protect fresh drinking water and cultural heritage in a holistic manner, including through the use of indigenous knowledge, agriculture development, ecotourism and entrepreneurship. In addition, a supportive environment was required for the conservation and development of the forestry sector. Her Government planned to increase the forest cover in Nepal to 40 per cent of the total area. It had declared 2014–2024 as the decade of forests, in order to promote the conservation, sustainable management and optimal use of forest resources.

89. Despite its immense potential for hydropower and the nation's continuous efforts to promote clean and renewable energy, Nepal's service, transport,

industry, commercial and urban residential sectors were dependent on fossil fuels, obtained mainly from traditional biomass sources. Her Government was endeavouring to create an investment-friendly environment for foreign direct investment in order to build productive capacity, develop infrastructure and promote renewable energy.

90. Poverty eradication was the most formidable problem facing the Government. Because of ongoing and emerging global challenges, not only were efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development becoming more complex, but in addition the modest gains made, particularly in the least developed and landlocked developed countries, were being jeopardized.

91. As science and technology were key to development, it was vital that technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and innovation should be prioritized in the global development agenda. The international community must be encouraged to address countries' vulnerabilities, help build resilience and promote economic and social development in a sustained and sustainable manner, including through strengthened North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. While developing countries in general needed additional resources to achieve sustainable development, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, mountain countries and countries emerging from conflict required the most urgent attention in that regard.

92. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that, if the global development agenda was to be sustainable, it must be coherent, with appropriate means of implementation built in, and must allow for the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. As a member of the group of small island developing States, Jamaica viewed the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States as a key contribution to the creation of a post-2015 development agenda that was sustainable and attuned to those countries' priorities and vulnerabilities. The Samoa Pathway provided clear guidance on strengthening resilience for small island developing States. It must be taken into account in the provisions of the resolution to be negotiated under agenda item 19 (b) and also when addressing issues of climate change, disaster risk reduction, financing for

development and the post-2015 development agenda in general.

93. As the Caribbean Sea was an integral part of Jamaica's ecosystem, his delegation welcomed the opportunity to review the biennial resolution on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations and appreciated the support of the international community in designating the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

94. Access to affordable and renewable sources of energy was essential to the sustainable development of small island developing States like Jamaica. The Government was therefore implementing a long-term national energy policy (2009–2030), which allowed for advances in energy efficiency and conservation, fuel source diversification, the development of the renewable energy sector and the modernization of the sector's regulatory framework. The post-2015 development agenda should focus on providing developing countries with access to appropriate technology to utilize modern, affordable and renewable sources of energy.

95. Disaster risk reduction was a priority for Jamaica. The country's long-term sustainability would require greater resilience to natural hazards and improved capacity for responding effectively to prevent loss of lives and livelihoods and damage to infrastructure. A stronger global framework for disaster risk reduction would be helpful in that regard.

96. A successful outcome to the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties would pave the way for achieving a global climate agreement at the twenty-first session in Paris. Urgent action should be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to secure sufficient resources to address the adaptation needs of countries that were particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, such as small island developing States.

97. The recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing must be taken into account when appropriate means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda were identified and the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development was determined. A holistic approach to sustainable development required that options for development financing should be fully explored and

that attention should be paid to proposals for improving the systemic underpinnings of the world economy, including in relation to debt sustainability and trade.

98. **Mr. Munungi** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that since the Earth Summit in 1992, when the world had first met to discuss sustainable development, more than 5 billion people had been affected by natural disasters. Currently, the impact of natural disasters translated into serious setbacks to human development, on account of ever-growing losses of life and harm to societies, economies and the environment. Natural disasters were one of the main causes of hunger worldwide and affected all dimensions of food security, particularly in least developed countries, which were the most vulnerable to such disasters.

99. The vulnerabilities of least developed countries had also increased due to a number of human-related factors, including technological and socioeconomic development, non-sustainable urban development, construction in high-risk zones, underdevelopment, land degradation, limited resources, geological shifts and epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola. Thankfully, the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference had recommended incorporating disaster risk reduction and climate change into all future sustainable development agendas. That was encouraging, as all efforts at disaster risk reduction, in order to be effective, had to be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty eradication and also to be backed by bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

100. With a view to subregional cooperation, the leaders of the Economic Community of Central African States had adopted the Yaoundé plan of action on strengthening disaster preparedness and response. The Yaoundé plan was based on five main objectives: cataloguing risks and identifying vulnerabilities; improving prevention and warning systems; increasing capacity for preparedness, prevention, response and rehabilitation; improving and strengthening the institutional and legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and response; and increasing financial capability to meet the cost of preparedness and response mechanisms. His delegation called on all of Africa's partners to support the implementation of the subregional initiative.

101. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was mired in recurring catastrophes that exposed its population to the whims of nature: volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides and floods. Epidemics, including cholera, HIV/AIDS, measles and Ebola continued to plague the region. In addition, there had been multiple train, boat and airplane accidents. Those factors accounted for over 2.9 million internally displaced persons, primarily scattered throughout the eastern region due to insecurity. In order to address the country's growing vulnerability to natural disasters and its various humanitarian needs, his Government had designed a number of national and local mechanisms for risk reduction and management. However, some of the mechanisms had never been implemented, owing to financial and capacity constraints.

102. His delegation called on the international community, especially developed countries, to share scientific and technological knowledge with his country and to provide it with financing, so that it could have access to cutting-edge ecological and environmental technologies to effectively and efficiently reinforce its capacity to manage disaster risks.

103. **Ms. Izata** (Angola) said it was apparent that, although the efforts made under the Millennium agenda had been a significant attempt to eradicate poverty and render vulnerable communities more resilient, they had fallen short of achieving all the goals set. It was therefore necessary to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda made adequate provision for the necessary components to arrive at a more sustainable world.

104. As observed by the Secretary-General in connection with sustainable development, education allowed every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attributes that empowered them to contribute to sustainable development and make informed decisions about environmental integrity. Angola therefore welcomed the convening of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in November 2014. Her Government believed that education was an essential tool for the socioeconomic growth of any society and, since 2010, had been engaged in ongoing efforts to facilitate access to education in rural areas, to expand school infrastructures at all education levels and to improve conditions in existing schools. Such initiatives would

create 63,000 new classrooms and training for 126,000 new teachers over five years.

105. As entrepreneurship promoted growth, it was important to formulate proper entrepreneurship policies to complement a country's overall economy and simultaneously to help achieve development objectives and create jobs for young people. In order to address the significant problem of unemployment, reduce social exclusion facing Angolan youth and mitigate the flow of money to the informal market, programmes had been created within the framework of the national development plan 2013–2017 and included initiatives to promote entrepreneurship, access to credit, support for emerging economic activities, and the reconversion of the informal economy. Such programmes had helped to create new jobs, increase tax revenue for the State, drive economic growth, reduce social problems among the youth and boost the national target for the diversification of domestic products, thereby helping to reduce long-term dependence on imports.

106. Her Government welcomed proposed goal 7, on access to energy for all, in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. However, it would have liked the means of implementation to include the factor of reliability, which was important for sustainable development. It considered the energy sector to be a catalyst for sustainable development and had therefore sought to contribute to global efforts to protect the climate.

107. As stated in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, Africa was not the source of climate change but was the region of the world that suffered the most from it. As climate change aggravated existing vulnerabilities, causing weather-related mortality, food and water scarcity, destruction of habitats, species and human health, her Government regarded responding effectively to climate change as the essential challenge to overcome in the quest to achieve sustainable development. In order to alleviate vulnerability and strengthen adaptation, it was essential to have access to adequate means of implementation, including financing, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, particularly for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

108. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that the international community must work together to overcome inequality and inequitable and uneven

development among countries, as well as to eradicate poverty, hunger, malnutrition and new diseases like Ebola, which, even though it mainly affected West Africa, was a global problem. The issues of conflict and war, violence against women and children and the negative impacts of climate change should also be addressed collectively. It was vital that the coming years should see the triumph of social justice, solidarity, unity, complementarity among peoples, and brotherhood and respect among nations.

109. Poverty eradication remained the greatest challenge facing the world, as corroborated by the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. In order to achieve the proposed goals, it was necessary to have the means of implementation and a stronger global partnership based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

110. Negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda must begin with the fact that not all developing countries had achieved all the MDGs. Efforts must be redoubled to provide the appropriate means of implementation and financing necessary for complete success. The post-2015 agenda provided a fresh opportunity to strive for a global order based on social justice that would promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, participatory social development and protection of the environment. To that end, the agenda must be formulated through an open, transparent intergovernmental process on the basis of the recommendations made by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Rio+20 Conference.

111. Developing countries suffered the most from the effects of climate change, which was manifesting itself in increasingly frequent and intense weather events. Despite its economic limitations and its prioritization of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and even though it was not bound by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nicaragua was assuming the costs for its own adaptation and mitigation. In order to face the serious threat of climate change and protect the life-sustaining ecosystems of the world, a legally binding agreement was urgently needed under the Framework Convention and in accordance with its principles and provisions, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. Her Government also wished to underscore the importance of disaster risk reduction,

especially for developing countries, which were the most vulnerable to climate change and the impact of natural disasters.

112. A new society, based on fraternity, solidarity and complementarity, was being built by the Latin American and Caribbean community. The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), of which Nicaragua was a member, had spearheaded unity, complementarity and economic integration in the region, including through forums like Petrocaribe, which had produced immediate, concrete benefits in the fight against poverty, hunger and inequality.

113. **Mr. Chandra** (Indonesia) said that, while overall progress in achieving the MDGs painted a hopeful picture, there were still staggering numbers of people living in squalid conditions. It had become apparent that ending poverty was not solely about boosting income; it required a set of actions to empower and enable the human spirit to reach a higher destiny, which could be best realized by reinforcing sustainable development.

114. Aggravated by globalization, the marked rise in inequality between and within countries, represented the greatest challenge. Although extreme poverty would remain a concern in the next decade, the trend of middle-income poverty was expected to grow until 2030, demonstrating that inequality and social inequity could persist even after graduation from poverty. His Government remained convinced that all countries shared a common interest in casting out inequality and that the post-2015 agenda would be influenced by that concern.

115. Policy frameworks for reducing inequality would need to be designed and implemented in accordance with country-specific circumstances to address poverty eradication, which was to be the overriding priority of the post-2015 agenda. To complement domestic action, the interrelated challenges of poverty eradication, global inequality and sustainable global development must be addressed as well. It was likewise critically important to establish or strengthen inclusive and democratic global economic governance structures, with effective representation of and accountability to all regions and country groupings on an equal basis. Poverty eradication should be achieved via a transformative and inclusive agenda based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In addition, no matter how many adjustments were

made at the national level to drive transformation, no enduring impact would be achieved without a conducive international economic environment and the provision of the necessary means of implementation. His delegation hoped that 2014 would see the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism.

116. With regard to climate change, developed countries had a historical responsibility to lead by example, while developing countries should also take ambitious action within their capacity, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. For all its shortcomings, globalization had given birth to a cyber-aware generation that was more exposed to global issues and would be able to play a part in implementing the future development agenda.

117. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo) said that for many countries, especially in Africa, the MDGs were still out of reach, in part because of certain shortcomings in their initial preparation and formulation. His delegation welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference and supported the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21 (A/69/312).

118. The ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development reflected the commitment of the international community to elaborate an ambitious, inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda. His delegation agreed with the many representatives who had argued that negotiations on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals should not be reopened. Instead, the international community should focus on achieving greater synergy among the various sustainable development mechanisms, which required the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

119. His Government had prioritized the implementation of Agenda 21, with a view to improving governance in macro and microeconomic management to achieve sustainable development. The national strategy of the Congo was focused on: participatory environmental management, involving all stakeholders, including public administration, the private sector, civil society and local and indigenous populations; the global dimension of environmental management; and the harmonization of policies at the national, subregional and international levels.

120. The Congo, which was a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and had also signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, had since the end of the 1990s elaborated, revised and confirmed strategies and plans of action to safeguard biodiversity. Thanks to external partnerships, the Congo was working to implement the Convention, including the in situ and ex situ conservation of natural resources. At the subregional level, the Central African Forests Commission and a working group on biodiversity frequently assessed progress with regard to commitments and obligations. The Congo maintained a large number of national parks and reserves, which occupied 13 per cent of its national territory.

121. The illegal exploitation of wildlife and the illicit trade in wildlife products represented new challenges that must be addressed collectively. An international conference dealing with those environmental crimes as they affected Africa would be held in Brazzaville, under the auspices of the African Union and in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme.

122. **Ms. Vanklavaren-Impagliazzo** (Monaco) reiterated her delegation's support for sustainable development, as shown by Monaco's contribution to the Green Climate Fund and its commitment to negotiations with a view to adopting a new universal climate agreement. Her Government would consolidate its existing policies at the national and international levels to safeguard the environment for future generations, which would necessarily require the elaboration of a transformative, inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda that integrated the three pillars of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

123. Her Government supported the creation of a sustainable development goal on oceans and seas, as it believed that human existence was closely linked to the oceans, on which many States depended for food security, health, climate and means of subsistence. It was therefore imperative to strive for healthy and productive oceans, bearing in mind that they were unfortunately subject to greenhouse gas emissions and consequently at risk of acidification. The world economy could lose up to one trillion dollars annually by the end of the century if urgent measures were not taken to stop ocean acidification.

124. The high-level political forum had shown that it could fulfil the mandates defined in the Rio+20 outcome document. The forum should be the main instrument for monitoring and reviewing the proposed sustainable development goals in the context of a post-2015 development agenda. In order to elaborate an ambitious and transformative agenda, it was necessary to implement an appropriate financing framework. New and strengthened partnerships must be placed at the heart of a new financing framework, including new actors from the private sector and philanthropy. The Samoa Pathway was an example to follow in that regard.

125. Monaco would continue its efforts to conserve biodiversity and combat desertification and the degradation of natural habitats within the framework of its international environmental policy.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.