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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 25th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 2 November 2010, at 3 p.m.

*Chairperson:* Ms. Csilla Würtz (Vice-Chairperson) . . . . . (Hungary)

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*In the absence of Ms. Ochir (Mongolia), Ms. Würtz (Hungary), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

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

**Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/65/302 and A/65/316)**

1. **Mr. Clos** (Executive Director, UN-Habitat) said that the key achievements since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/207 were described in more detail in document A/65/316. Highlights were the publication by UN-Habitat of two major reports: the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2009* and *State of the World's Cities 2010/2011*. They made it clear that future urban policies must address a number of major challenges, including demographic, economic, environmental, spatial and institutional issues, all of which were fully discussed in document A/65/316.

2. Between 2000 and 2010, the lives of 230 million slum-dwellers had been improved. Thus the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 had been exceeded by 100 million. However, 830 million people still lived in urban slums, and that number was predicted to increase by 60 million by the year 2020. Governments, especially those of the poorer developing countries, needed to intensify efforts to improve the lives of slum-dwellers and to prevent the growth of slums. One important development had been the launching in three African countries of the second phase of the Participatory Slum Upgrading and Prevention Programme.

3. Three significant events during the year had helped to advance advocacy for the Habitat Agenda, first the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro on the theme *The Right to the City — Bridging the Urban Divide*, the launching of the World Urban Campaign, which sought to help Governments and all Habitat Agenda partners to move towards more sustainable and more equitable cities, and the Shanghai World Exposition 2010, with the theme “Better City, Better Life”; three million people had visited the United Nations pavilion, which had been coordinated by UN-Habitat under the theme “One Earth, One UN”.

4. As part of its efforts to strengthen the role of local authorities, UN-Habitat had focused on strengthening inclusive urban planning, management and governance. Substantive areas of focus had also included cities and climate change, as well as post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction and development. It had continued its work within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for humanitarian affairs, with a view to integrating a human settlements perspective into the earliest stages of emergency relief, in order to facilitate the transition to early recovery and reconstruction.

5. Through the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat had successfully influenced the overall housing reconstruction strategy and the policy approach to land-related challenges in Haiti. In relation to the MDGs on access to safe drinking water and sanitation, UN-Habitat had carried out both normative and operational activities.

6. UN-Habitat had accelerated its work on improving human settlements finance systems through two pilot programmes, the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO), and the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF). ERSO catalytic loan transactions of almost \$2.8 million had been completed in five countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, mobilizing around \$500 million of investment.

7. A joint review of UN-Habitat's governance structure by its Committee of Permanent Representatives and its Secretariat, aimed inter alia at achieving resource mobilization targets, was still in progress. UN-Habitat would also continue to prioritize the activities that Governments considered to be important. Those included: promoting sustainable urbanization, slum upgrading, improving access to drinking water, sanitation and basic infrastructure services, promoting effective and sustainable financing of cities, mainstreaming gender, promoting partnerships and advancing global awareness of urban conditions and trends through evidence-based monitoring.

8. If UN-Habitat was to continue to be internationally relevant, it also had to respond to emerging urban challenges, with priority assigned to: promoting a new role for urban planning in developing sustainable cities and towns, including sustainable urban transport; responding to natural and human-made disasters, with the aim of facilitating transition to early

recovery and reconstruction; and promoting the role of local authorities, especially with reference to municipal finance.

9. Lastly, a new economic appraisal of the urbanization process should be developed. The evolution of urban capital assets over time and their contribution to the economy of a nation were very powerful forces in both developed and developing countries.

10. **Ms. Kite** (Israel) expressed appreciation for UN-Habitat's cooperation with the Israel Centre for International Cooperation, MASHAV, in the areas of capacity-building, slum upgrading and gender mainstreaming.

11. **Mr. Alyemany** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that rapid urbanization meant that a significant portion of the route to sustainable development entailed managing cities and urban sprawl. The efforts of UN-Habitat to improve the monitoring of urbanization trends and deepen the international community's understanding of them were therefore encouraging.

12. UN-Habitat should continue to support developing countries' efforts to address urban poverty and inequality by intensifying its work in the areas of slum upgrading, improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation, promoting effective financing mechanisms for slum-upgrading programmes, addressing gender inequalities and promoting partnerships.

13. Most of the world's growing cities were located in the developing countries and in coastal areas that were vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal storms. Cities offered opportunities to provide leadership in climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly in the areas of domestic energy and urban transport. UN-Habitat should continue identifying and sharing innovative urban development planning and management practices. Given the vulnerability of the poorest countries to disasters, its focus on integrating a human settlements perspective into emergency relief so as to facilitate the transition to early recovery was commendable.

14. Creating sustainable human settlements required integrated national strategies focusing on poverty eradication and access to basic urban services, including adequate and affordable housing, safe water,

modern, affordable energy services and waste collection and disposal. Meeting those goals also required partnerships among the public, civil society and private sectors. The World Urban Forum and the Global Urban Campaign had proved to be effective advocacy tools to that end.

15. While welcoming the good fundraising performance of UN-Habitat, the Group of 77 and China remained concerned at the imbalance between core and non-core funding. The continued unpredictability of funding resulting from the imbalance between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions, as well as dependence on a small number of donors, lessened UN-Habitat's ability to function according to the national priorities of developing countries.

16. The Group expressed its support for the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008-2013 and the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations in support of pro-poor housing and urban development, as well as for the series of regional ministerial meetings on urban development, which should continue to focus on integrating the Habitat Agenda into national plans and strategies.

17. **Ms. Delieux** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidate countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; as well as Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that rapid urban population growth and poorly planned urban expansion presented a significant challenge for the international community. UN-Habitat was therefore facing huge tasks related to the impact of environmental degradation of human settlements and the growth in the number of slum-dwellers.

18. At the Millennium Development Goals summit, the European Union had reiterated its commitment to continue working towards cities without slums by promoting equal access to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter. With the adoption of the Lisbon Agenda, European Union Member States had made a commitment to facilitating social inclusion by ensuring effective access to quality social services, including housing.

19. The European Union welcomed the progress made over the last year in the implementation of the

2008-2013 Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan, as well as the recent peer review of the Plan and the swift management response which demonstrated the commitment of UN-Habitat's leadership to improved coherence in delivering results. The momentum thus generated should be maintained. The European Union was committed to working closely with UN-Habitat to ensure success and would seek to reduce bureaucratic demands on it through harmonization of requirements.

20. UN-Habitat had considerable expertise in producing global, regional and national authoritative norms, and should focus on their implementation so as to ensure that that expertise was translated into real impact. Delivering results was of course more challenging in times of financial crisis, and UN-Habitat, as a small programme, could not respond to every request. It must therefore maintain a rigorous focus on prioritization, including in its allocation of resources, and the European Union hoped that the outcome of the ongoing governance review would be a streamlined organization able to deliver on its core mandate and to adapt to emerging issues, and operating through strong partnerships both within and outside the United Nations.

21. **Ms. Handaruningrum** (Indonesia) said that the Habitat Agenda included many goals that were intimately connected to the MDGs. The Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations were particularly commendable. UN-Habitat should have a stronger regional and national presence, and should be given the funding needed to make that presence felt. It should also strengthen the integration of South-South cooperation in its activities, as called for by resolution 22/9 of its Governing Council. Its contributions to the successful outcome of the third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in his country in June 2010, were welcome, and he commended UN-Habitat and Brazil for successfully organizing the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010.

22. **Mr. Xing Jisheng** (China) said that progress in improving human settlements continued to face many challenges, particularly in the developing world. Over the preceding decade, the number of slum-dwellers had increased by millions each year. Barely one third of cities in developing countries had their wastewater treated. The key to solving the housing problem globally was to solve it in the developing countries,

with the support of all sectors of society and without infringing on national sovereignty. His country's urbanization policies strove to balance population growth, environmental protection and the needs of development. Some of the more advanced ideas on sustainable urban development were on display at the just-concluded Expo 2010, being held in Shanghai with the theme "Better City, Better Life".

23. **Mr. de Almeida** (Brazil) said that the provision of affordable housing was a growing challenge in the face of rapid population growth and unparalleled scale of urbanization. He welcomed further discussions on ways to promote adequate financing for affordable housing in the face of the global financial crisis and challenges related to climate change. UN-Habitat's Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund, SUF and Water and Sanitation Trust Fund all deserved additional allocations. Development-oriented urbanization was crucial to eradicating poverty and hunger among the 1 billion persons who lived in slums in the developing world.

24. Unplanned urbanization had left 1 in 10 urban households in Brazil without access to drinking water and almost half without sewage collection. The urban development pillar of his Government's Programme for Accelerated Growth targeted the problems created by urban slums. In March 2010, his country had hosted the fifth session of the World Urban Forum under the theme: "The Right to the City — Bridging the Urban Divide". It had focused on strategies to make cities more democratic and sustainable. The management of cities should strive for inclusiveness in decision-making processes and equitable sharing of wealth, goods, services and opportunities.

25. **Mr. Munde** (India) said that the work of UN-Habitat and other stakeholders in urban development was assuming greater importance in view of the projection that by 2050 over two thirds of the world's population would be living in urban areas. India supported the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities adopted by the UN-Habitat Governing Council, and his Government had been working to expand the functional domain of local authorities in India.

26. India was a founding and active member of UN-Habitat, and supported its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013. The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

should be provided with the capitalization necessary to support its slum upgrading and prevention programme and its pro-poor investment in urban water and sanitation. Early operationalization of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations would allow UN-Habitat to provide much-needed assistance to national housing development programmes.

27. It would not be long before half of India's population was living in cities. His Government's National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, and notably its Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, aimed to provide affordable shelter and basic service to the poor in cities, while other programmes in the countryside focused on affordable rural housing. In the spirit of the green building codes mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, his country had taken measures to ensure energy efficiency in new commercial buildings and public transport.

28. UN-Habitat's call for enhanced budgetary resources merited full support. Financial and technical assistance for poverty eradication and infrastructure development were crucial for attainment of the human-settlements-related MDGs. His country had shared cost-effective, environment-friendly, disaster-resistant housing technology with fellow developing countries, and he urged the international community to strengthen South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation.

29. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the Habitat Agenda's twin objectives of shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world were more pressing than ever, and should be implemented with due attention paid to protection of the environment and maintenance of traditional values. In many places, reckless urbanization had produced slums and created adverse environmental impacts, which climate change and the global crises were only compounding. He called for implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns of solid waste management.

30. UN-Habitat had a catalytic role in implementation of the Habitat Agenda and related MDG targets such as those on water and sanitation. He expressed support for that Agency's medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013 and its Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations. Sustainable urban development needed to be based on environmentally sound technologies. He hailed

progress made by UN-Habitat in resource mobilization, but remained concerned that the imbalance between core and non-core funding resulted in an unpredictability that hampered implementation of the Agency's programmes. He urged the developed countries to increase ODA to the urban sector to keep pace with the funding needs of slum-upgrading targets.

**Agenda item 20: Sustainable development** (*continued*) (A/65/88, A/65/275, A/65/278, A/65/485 and A/65/486)

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development** (*continued*) (A/65/229, A/65/297, A/65/298 and A/CONF.216/PC/5)
- (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/65/115, A/65/301, A/65/361 and A/CONF.218/PC/1)
- (c) **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** (*continued*) (A/65/388)
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations** (*continued*) (A/65/294)
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** (*continued*) (A/65/294)
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** (*continued*) (A/65/294)
- (g) **Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session** (*continued*) (A/65/25 (Supp) and A/65/383)
- (h) **United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development** (*continued*) (A/65/279)
- (i) **Harmony with Nature** (*continued*) (A/65/314)

31. **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the adverse effects of climate change were of greater concern than ever. International solidarity was needed to help implement cleaner new technologies and finance adaptation- and mitigation-related projects. The United Nations must mobilize donors and Member

States, the major polluters first, to initiate action, as the future of humanity was at stake.

32. The Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Cancún must build on the Copenhagen Agreement to achieve a firm commitment with exact figures for greenhouse gas reduction. The funds promised for combating deforestation and adapting to the effects of climate change must also be made available, and the current crisis must not be used as an excuse for not delivering on international commitments.

33. His delegation welcomed the adoption at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a new Agreement on Biological Diversity and a new Strategic Plan to implement the Aichi objectives. Also commendable was the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Life Web Initiative, aimed at raising funds to aid developing countries in protecting the environment and improving the living conditions of communities living in and around protected areas. His country varied and rich in biodiversity harboured ecosystems, which it had a duty to preserve. With regard to its estimated 145 million hectares of forests, it was firmly committed to the Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

34. In recent years his Government had expended much effort on evaluating and analysing the potential of its forests, and improving the governance of the forest sector, inter alia by modernizing legal mechanisms, recruiting an independent observer of forestry activities and implementing an enhanced system for monitoring the legality of logging and trade in timber. On 21 October it had signed a joint statement with the European Union opening negotiations on a partnership agreement to combat illegal logging and trade of Congolese timber.

35. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that countries like Bangladesh, with little responsibility for climate change, bore the brunt of its increasing impacts. Momentum must be built to translate past commitments into actions that the world had sought for two decades, with emphasis on a comprehensive approach combining social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, while ensuring equitable geographical representation in various organs of the United Nations system, with

proper representation from the most vulnerable countries.

36. The climate change debate had to be depoliticized. Drastic measures were needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and developed and advanced developing countries should make meaningful and unconditional commitments in that respect. The special and compelling needs of the most vulnerable countries must be recognized: tens of billions of dollars were needed for adaptation: in a future climate change agreement, the LDCs should have access to eco-friendly and cost-effective technologies for sustainable development, and there should be a "Technology Transfer Board" to facilitate that access. Bangladesh urged developed countries to undertake ambitious and pragmatic enhanced commitments in line with the Kyoto Protocol.

37. In a world plagued by ever more frequent and devastating natural disasters, with erratic climate change and soaring food prices magnifying the challenges, it was vital to build resilience to disasters. Substantially increased investment in disaster risk reduction was urgently required to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, and national efforts should be supplemented by adequate international assistance. Better integration of disaster risk reduction and adaptation measures could provide a tremendous opportunity to achieve sustainable development. Bangladesh supported the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the adoption of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity, and fully endorsed the proposal of the Group of 77 to establish a secretariat for South-South Cooperation.

38. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that in recent years there had been substantial gaps in the implementation of Agenda 21. Pakistan agreed with the Secretary-General's report that development must be more than just an expansion of income and wealth. The concept of sustainable development was multidimensional, and no single element should guide the development agenda. Pakistan was not convinced, however, by the argument that the multidimensional nature of development was not captured by its three constituents.

39. Pakistan believed that the notion of green economy was part of the existing framework of sustainable development, and was ready to work with the Secretary-General's team and its partners to

develop a common understanding along those lines. It was also important to ensure that the green economy approach did not become a means of imposing trade and other unilateral barriers on developing countries. Lastly, coherence in action between various international organizations should also aim at expanding economic opportunities for the developing countries to achieve growth in agriculture by removing trade-distorting subsidies which had afforded protection to developed countries' farmers alone.

40. There seemed to be little cause for optimism about reaching an agreed outcome at the sixteenth Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention, as envisaged under the Bali Action Plan. Divergences regarding mitigation persisted and the Kyoto Protocol track was virtually deadlocked; hence the objective of a comprehensive agreed outcome on climate change was some years from attainment. That should not, though, divert the international community's efforts from ensuring that the Conference led to substantive results. It could take key decisions on improving the governance of climate finance by establishing a permanent body, on establishing a new fund of \$50 billion, on the level of emission reduction by the developed country parties in the context of negotiation under the Kyoto Protocol track, on Fast Start Finance, and on extending the mandates of the two Ad hoc Working Groups.

41. Effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was essential. Pakistan wished to work very closely with those States in charting a course of action which comprehensively addressed concerns about their high vulnerability to climate change while also addressing the vulnerability of other developing countries.

42. **Mrs. Zalkaply** (Malaysia) said that natural disasters in 2010, most of them resulting from climate change, had caused massive loss of life and long-term social and environmental harm, for both the countries affected and their neighbours. It was therefore important for the international community to address climate change through additional and sustainable financial resources, capacity-building and access to technology, to make increased commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and to ensure that there was no gap between the first and subsequent commitment periods.

43. **Mr. Isoh** (Nigeria) said that economic crises, accelerating ecosystem degradation and climate-induced extreme weather events were calling into question whether a growing population could live sustainably on the planet. The Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 must therefore consolidate political commitment to sustainable development. Climate change posed the single most serious threat to the survival of millions around the world, particularly in Africa and the small island States, where extreme weather had dimmed the hope of combating hunger, diseases and poverty. A fair, ambitious and comprehensive agreement was needed which would focus on the Kyoto Protocol as the major vehicle for obtaining a legally binding instrument on emission reduction commitments.

44. The need to ensure long-term sustainable management of water resources, in terms of both quantity and quality, could not be overemphasized. Nigeria was active in the work of the African Ministers' Council on Water and its Task Force to promote the development and implementation of coherent policies and strategies for water resources management, and welcomed UNDP's Water Governance Programme and the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Programme; a closer partnership with both programmes would boost rural initiatives in the area of water supply and sanitation.

45. Since 1992, little had been accomplished in relation to the three central objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Nigeria therefore hoped that the agreements reached at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention would significantly curtail biodiversity loss and ensure equitable sharing of enriched global biodiversity.

46. **Ms. Raguž** (Croatia) expressed the hope that the political will generated by recent high-level meetings on biodiversity, the MDGs and small island developing States would encourage ongoing endeavours to tackle the enormous challenge of climate change. The meeting of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol would, Croatia hoped, result in decisions that could positively contribute towards the future realization of a legally binding post-Kyoto regime.

47. The consequences of loss of global biodiversity were alarming. The outcome of the tenth Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

including the ten-year Strategic Plan, a resource mobilization strategy, and the landmark Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, should provide the requisite tools for action. Croatia joined others in calling for the General Assembly to establish an independent intergovernmental science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The International Year of Forests would provide a timely opportunity to reinforce the critical contribution that forests could make to achieving human-centred sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Croatia especially appreciated the efforts of the International Year secretariat to provide a platform for public awareness actions regarding the four global objectives on forests.

48. The Committee's current deliberations were taking place at a crucial juncture in the preparatory process for the Conference on Sustainable Development, the two themes of which, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and an institutional framework for sustainable development, were closely interlinked and were a key to the Conference's success. Also crucial was an effective and less fragmented institutional framework for sustainable development with a strengthened environmental pillar. To that end, the work of the UNEP Consultative Group of Ministers on international environmental governance reforms should serve as important input to the Committee's deliberations.

49. In the Committee's efforts to improve the effectiveness of its work, it should focus more on the cross-cutting characteristics of issues, and strive to identify ways of further integrating the issues under sustainable development with other important and mutually reinforcing processes such as the Millennium Development Goals agenda.

50. **Mrs. Morgan Sotomayor** (Mexico) said that the Conference on Sustainable Development must take a balanced approach to the three main items on its agenda: evaluation of the progress in and obstacles to the implementation of the summits on sustainable development, including new challenges; the new institutional framework for sustainable development; and the green economy.

51. Mexico recognized the high vulnerability of Small Island Developing States and supported the work

on the effective application of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for their sustainable development. In view of the increasing number and intensity of natural disasters, Mexico agreed on the importance of support by the Organization to developing countries in the implementation of operational frameworks for risk prevention and management.

52. Mexico welcomed the achievements of the conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization was a major step towards the establishment of a global framework on biodiversity. Mexico was in favour of the establishment of an Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and would support the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on the subject.

53. Mexico reiterated the importance of strengthening UNEP as a coordinating entity for United Nations system environmental activities, and supported the Nusa Dua Declaration, which sent a clear political message on the main topics on the global environmental agenda.

54. **Mr. Cuello Camilo** (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation fully supported the commitments assumed in the Mauritius Strategy, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

55. The current crises should encourage the search for ways to minimize the use of scarce resources while preserving food security. As a small island State with irreplaceable tourism resources along its coastal areas, the Dominican Republic required not only national strategies but also effective fulfilment of the promises of financing, technical assistance and technology transfer from the international community in order to adapt to climate change. Developing sustainably and achieving the MDGs would be difficult without effective strategies for natural disaster prevention, mitigation and response. The President of the Dominican Republic had proposed to the General Assembly the creation of an Alliance of Countries at Risk to promote implementation of the best practices of those countries that had learned to live with risk by minimizing their vulnerability. His delegation and that of Turkey were working on a draft resolution to launch



such an Alliance while establishing a network of regional centres to respond to natural disasters.

56. The Dominican Republic had the second greatest biodiversity in the Americas. Protecting that heritage was essential to sustainable development. Thanks to its extensive system of protected areas, the country had been able to reverse the pernicious effects of deforestation. It was also preserving its marine and coastal biodiversity, and therefore welcomed the results of the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The adoption of the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing showed the international community's commitment to biodiversity and to the multilateral agenda for conservation and the environment.

57. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon) said that to take into account the close links between the degradation of nature and famine, poverty and the spread of disease, the Cameroonian Government had formulated a policy on the environment and sustainable development based inter alia on: strengthening environmental governance, controlling the impact of industry on the environment and human health, conserving and sustainably managing biodiversity, conserving nature and rehabilitating degraded sites, and preventing environmental risks. The integration of those principles into national policies had yielded tangible results while expanding and preserving protected areas. Cameroon, in partnership with Gabon and the Republic of the Congo, had also developed a plan to create a cross-border protected area.

58. Sustainable management of forests and fauna was of particular importance to Cameroon. Its Government had been involved in managing forests, creating forest reserves, reforestation campaigns and creating forest management units, whose objective was to preserve the ecological, environmental and social functions of forests. Regrettably, the strong support within Cameroon for such programmes was not always matched by comparable international solidarity.

59. Cameroon was in favour of continuing the North-South dialogue on the role of forests in combating climate change, and Cameroon strongly supported implementing the REDD+ Mechanism, through a partnership between industrialized and developing countries which included compensation commensurate with the sacrifices made by the forested countries. On the road leading to Cancún, Cameroon called upon

Governments to reconcile their positions with a view to an international agreement on a new regime to combat global warming, in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

60. **Mr. Batjargal** (World Meteorological Organization) said that many planned climate change adaptation measures, including those in national adaptation programmes of action, would require climate services not currently available. The world's existing network for observation and monitoring had seriously eroded, curtailing the ability to monitor water quantity and quality, predict droughts, forecast floods, understand climate change implications and make appropriate water management plans. Addressing the immense variety of climate service needs was beyond the capacity of any single organization or country and called for unprecedented collaboration. Efforts should be mobilized to build up necessary infrastructure, skills and expertise for comprehensive, user-focused climate services. To that end, the Global Framework for Climate Services would lead to widespread social, economic and environmental benefits through more effective climate and disaster risk management and improved capacity to adapt, ensuring that all countries were better equipped to meet challenges.

61. The cost of climate services was modest compared to the value of the investments they supported, and potential savings inter alia in the efforts to achieve the MDGs were enormous. The Framework would also support the aims of other international agreements, including those on climate change and desertification, and the objectives set by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Although requiring some new investment, the Framework would mostly draw on existing resources. It would not duplicate but would seek to coordinate, facilitate and strengthen. The Framework would need a governance mechanism, particularly to mobilize stakeholders, user communities and new resources. Governments would play a central role in its implementation, while the United Nations system would be active in intergovernmental functions and coordination.

62. **Ms. Ratsifandrihamanana** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that FAO had worked closely with the inter-agency group on the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and was currently engaged in addressing implementation gaps

in Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development and other relevant Agenda 21 issues related to land use, deforestation, desertification, mountains, biodiversity, oceans, water, and wastewater management in rural areas. Alternative development scenarios, prospective challenges and policy options would be outlined in the Greening the Economy with Agriculture report.

63. By 2050, the agriculture sector would need to feed 9 billion people affordably and nutritiously. Agricultural production must increase, but available new agricultural areas were already scarce. Thus a new paradigm of more sustainable land and water use was needed. Conservation agriculture could assist with climate change adaptation and mitigation, diversification of production, decrease in input use, and water management, providing significant socio-economic benefits.

64. Up to 30 million hectares of farmland were lost annually to environmental degradation, conversion to industrial use or urbanization. FAO was working to provide a policy advice and had better use of water in agriculture, and welcomed the report on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life".

65. FAO was working on voluntary guidelines for responsible governance of tenure of land and other natural resources, which would provide practical guidance to States, civil society and the private sector as a means of alleviating hunger and poverty, empowering the poor, enhancing the environment and reforming public administration.

66. **Ms. Muedin** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that both gradual climate change and natural disasters were exposing to new risks an increasing number of inhabitants of coastal regions, low-lying islands, and areas susceptible to drought, and it had been predicted that they would lead to the large-scale displacement of people both internally and internationally. The situation of small island developing States was particularly worrisome; they urgently needed climate change policies that guided response to disasters and equity issues and addressed more extreme options such as possible relocation from islands.

67. Unprecedented numbers of people were coming to see migration as an option, and Governments and other stakeholders must anticipate change and respond effectively to environmentally induced population

movements. Gradual changes such as drought and desertification might seem a less obvious cause of migration than extreme events, but in the longer term, they displaced far larger numbers of people, often internally; national development strategies therefore needed to consider how migration could be an adaptation strategy and contribute to development. A dialogue was needed among Member States on how to fill existing and foreseeable legal, operational and capacity gaps associated with climate change and human mobility and to allocate sufficient additional funding to the issue. IOM was committed to working with its partners to help reduce vulnerability associated with environmental degradation and climate change, as well as to respond to humanitarian needs in times of crisis.

68. **Mr. Kakar** (International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)) said IUCN was concerned that biodiversity continued to be lost at unprecedented rates, the majority of the planet's essential ecosystem services were degraded and unsustainably managed, and the levels of carbon dioxide emissions continued to increase, with serious impacts on climate. Because of the multidimensional nature of sustainable development, its achievement would require cooperation both between developed and developing countries and between various segments of society, as well as the engagement of major groups, particularly of women, in natural resource conservation and management.

69. The natural environment on which the world depended was compromised, and its recovery would necessitate massive and immediate treatment. Investing in nature through ecosystem-based approaches was an effective, achievable means of decreasing vulnerability to drought, desertification and food insecurity. Without it, the objective of sustainable development would not be achieved. Green economy, one of the two themes for the Conference on Sustainable Development, would not be an alternative to sustainable development but a stimulus for more efficient integration of social, economic and environmental concerns into it.

70. **Ms. Barth** (International Labour Organization) said that the jobs crisis and the climate crisis had common roots, in that the prevailing development model had overemphasized the economy while undervaluing social and environmental dimensions. The world could not continue growing at the expense of environmental quality. Transitions in employment structures and workplaces were central to finding the

right mix of policies for sustainable development. The ILO Global Programme on Green Jobs was helping to facilitate a just transition by focusing on the preservation of the environment while providing new sources of income for all people and all countries. Green jobs were not a panacea, but well-designed environment-related investments were beneficial for employment overall. Although the green sectors of the economy could be expected to create more jobs than would be lost in other sectors, there would be shifts in the labour-market structure leading to job losses in the short term. Coherent policies and direct investments would thus be needed to assist those who bore the brunt of adaptation to climate change and those whose jobs were lost in the transition to a low-carbon economy. A proper framework for a just transition was erected based on the four components of decent work: rights, employment, social protection and social dialogue.

71. **Mr. Fareed** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that Agenda 21 remained a valid road map to sustainable development globally, but follow-up had been insufficient. UNIDO fully endorsed the themes of the Conference on Sustainable Development. Green economy directed capital and technology into investments for sustainable development, while enhanced governance was required to bolster global commitment to implement reforms.

72. UNIDO had initiated an organization-wide green industry initiative to focus on sustainable consumption and production, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and environmentally sound management of waste and chemicals. Its aims were to ensure that all producers reduced their use of energy, water and materials and their emissions and waste, and that industry managed its chemicals and wastes in an environmentally sound manner and redesigned its products so as to minimize environmental impact. A major UNIDO-UNEP initiative was under way to combine expertise through the formation of a truly global network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP-Net).

73. Access to sustainable, modern, affordable, and reliable energy services was central to addressing many global sustainable development challenges. Yet nearly one half of humanity lacked access to modern energy forms and one third had no access whatsoever. Changing that trend required international political commitment to targets, actions and associated benchmarks. UNIDO was providing leadership and

support to those efforts through UN-Energy, the United Nations system's mechanism for coordination on energy issues, and the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change. In 2010, that Group had proposed two global energy goals: to ensure universal access to modern energy services by 2030; and to reduce global energy intensity by 40 per cent by 2030. Those ambitious goals were achievable, but commitment from national Governments and the international community and private sector collaboration were necessary.

74. **Ms. Mosquini** (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)) said that thousands of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers were responding to recent disasters: globally, IFRC had 52 active appeals representing a need of over \$1.8 billion. IFRC's holistic approach to disaster risk reduction aimed at strengthening both community safety and resilience. That approach secured development gains and enabled further economic growth to be achieved. The more resilient a community was, the better it was able to adapt to changing weather patterns and increased uncertainty.

75. Disaster risk was a growing problem in urban areas where risk, population and economic assets were concentrated. For the first time in history, in 2010 more people lived in an urban environment than a rural one, and given the already large deficit in infrastructure and services in those developing population centres, urban risk was expected to grow as climate change brought on ever more severe disaster impacts in some of the world's most vulnerable locations. In line with the Making Cities Resilient Campaign of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), IFRC had therefore chosen urban risk as the theme for its latest annual World Disasters Report, which explored the different facets of the topic and presented recommendations to reduce risk and build resilience. One of the report's key findings was the importance of good urban governance.

76. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was committed to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), and was committed to meeting the challenge of reaching vulnerable communities.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*