



# General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
11 November 2014

Original: English

---

## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 21st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 23 October 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Iziraren (Vice-Chair). . . . . (Morocco)

## Contents

Agenda item 22: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

- (a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)
- (b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on landlocked developing countries (*continued*)

---

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](mailto: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/>).

14-63152 (E)



Please recycle A small graphic of a recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



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

**Agenda item 22: Groups of countries in special situations** (*continued*)

**(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries** (*continued*) (A/69/270 and A/69/95-E/2014/81)

**(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on landlocked developing countries** (*continued*) (A/69/170)

1. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) said that landlocked developing countries were among the poorest of all developing countries, owing to a lack of direct territorial access to the sea and international markets, high trade transaction costs, poor or insufficient infrastructure, limited productive capacities, a non-diversified export structure and low levels of foreign direct investments (FDI). Low and volatile prices on international markets for the primary commodities driving the economies of landlocked developing countries had hampered their efforts to reduce poverty, create jobs and achieve sustained economic growth and development. The United Nations and other multilateral development agencies must provide appropriate assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them transition to the production of higher value-added goods through industrialization, thus diversifying their economies and export capacities. Enhanced global partnerships and support in the form of financing and technical assistance were also needed to help those countries implement the Almaty Programme of Action and harness the benefits of international trade.

2. Evidence showed that no country had ever moved up the development ladder without structural economic transformation. Zimbabwe thus urged the United Nations system and international financial institutions to support efforts of landlocked developing countries aimed at structural economic transformation through manufacturing, value addition, beneficiation, diversification of productive basics and industrialization. Support was also necessary to help landlocked developing countries add value to their primary commodities and be integrated into the global value chain system. In the new programme of action that would be adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, the priorities of landlocked developing countries must be supported by means of implementation, namely

financing, trade, official development assistance (ODA), technology benefits and FDI.

3. In an effort to mitigate the negative effects of geographical remoteness, the Almaty Programme of Action had focused on transport, logistics, trade facilitation, relations with transit states and international support. However, the challenges facing landlocked developing countries went beyond the difficulties of delivering goods on time and at reasonable costs to international markets. While the Almaty Programme of Action remained important, addressing the challenges of landlocked developing countries should not be limited to transportation and transit issues; a new programme of action should address issues in a holistic, comprehensive and result-oriented manner, emphasizing structural economic transformation, productive capacities, value addition, beneficiation, diversification and industrialization.

4. Zimbabwe called for increased FDI to landlocked developing countries in manufacturing and agriculture, the two sectors that were critical for economic growth. His delegation was greatly concerned by the growing reduction in the contribution of the two economic sectors to the gross domestic product (GDP) of most landlocked developing countries. He also appealed to donors to meet their ODA commitments, a major source of development projects in many landlocked developing countries. ODA must be integrated into and aligned with national development plans and priorities. Given the lack of predictability and sustainability of ODA, Zimbabwe emphasized the need for international support to help landlocked developing countries finance their growth through the mobilization of domestic resources and manage unsustainable debts, a major setback to economic development. As transport infrastructure in most landlocked developing countries was still not fully developed, his delegation called on the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions and development partners to help mobilize the huge financial resources required for investment in transport infrastructure.

5. Trade facilitation was necessary to reduce the cost of trade and boost trade for landlocked developing countries. Zimbabwe called on development partners to increase the level of aid for trade to landlocked developing countries, fulfil their current commitments and increase disbursement.

6. **Ms. Hassen** (Ethiopia) said that three years into the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the progress of least developed countries had been encouraging, with most countries making a modest economic recovery. In addition, some countries, including Ethiopia, had registered the target growth rate set out in the Programme of Action and made gains in reducing poverty and achieving international development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, challenges still remained: in the past decade alone, the proportion of people living in poverty had remained high, with 50 per cent living on less than \$1.25 per day. Many least developed countries had grown at a rate of only 3 to 4 per cent and continued to experience a slow pace of expansion.

7. As the Istanbul Programme of Action was based on mutual accountability between least developed countries and development partners, her delegation called on development partners to fulfil their ODA commitments of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income (GNI) to least developed countries, with a focus on building productive capacity.

8. While making a final push towards the achievement of the MDGs, it was also important to firmly integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, since the Programme captured, in its eight priority areas, important aspects of the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a special focus on the most marginalized people. The sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 framework should leave no one behind and should be transformative, ensuring a life of dignity for all.

9. Least developed countries must overcome their structural challenges, increase their productive capacities in all sectors and strengthen human capacities and resilience in order to be able to graduate from their status by 2020. In that regard, the Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in least developed countries would ensure the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by addressing structural constraints of productive sectors, especially in infrastructure and energy. Moreover, her delegation welcomed the launch of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024) and its special focus on least developed countries.

10. As science and technology were enablers for development, her delegation called for the timely operationalization of the Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation Supporting Mechanism for the Least Developed Countries, an important milestone in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

11. The total worldwide trade share of least developed countries remained at virtually the same level as in 2011, accounting for a total of 1.11 per cent of the world's exports of goods and services, thus still substantially below the target of 2 per cent to be achieved by 2020. Consequently, Ethiopia called for the timely implementation of the decisions taken by World Trade Organization (WTO) member States at the Ninth Ministerial Conference held in 2013, in particular the decision on duty-free and quota-free market access for least developed countries.

12. Ethiopia was implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in alignment with its five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, and the country's economic growth was among the fastest in the world. In order to graduate from least developed status, Ethiopia was investing heavily in infrastructure development; indeed, despite ongoing challenges, some of the MDGs had been met before the 2015 deadline. Impacting both economic and non-economic development, its landlocked situation was a major hindrance for Ethiopia. On average, the development of landlocked countries was 20 per cent lower than what it would have been without that limitation. High transport costs and trade transaction costs constituted major impediments to trade competitiveness, equitable access to global markets and beneficial integration into the world economy.

13. In order to overcome the special challenges of landlocked developing countries, international partnerships and concerted global actions must be strengthened. A new, holistic programme of action was needed to address the full range of development challenges facing landlocked developing countries, including structural transformation, the enhancement of productive capacities, diversification and value addition, international trade and trade facilitation, transit issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, and regional integration and cooperation. The priorities of least developed countries and landlocked developing countries must be effectively addressed in the post-2015 development agenda based

on the inputs contained in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General.

14. **Mr. Choeda** (Bhutan) said that, having mainstreamed the principles and priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action into its national development plans, Bhutan was setting its sights on graduation from the least developed category. However, least developed countries must be able to graduate on a sure footing and in a sustainable manner, avoiding the risk of any backtracking on hard-earned development gains. Matters related to time frame and transition required careful and deliberate consideration, a responsibility that rested squarely on the shoulders of the country graduating.

15. While Bhutan had achieved good progress through the implementation of the priority areas of the Almaty Programme of Action, challenges remained. Bhutan's economy was still driven by a single sector and needed new drivers to diversify economic growth. Infrastructure remained weak, leading to high trade and transport costs. The role of the private sector needed to be enhanced. Poverty eradication also remained a major challenge, with 12 per cent of Bhutan's population living below the national poverty line. And finally, climate change posed unique challenges for Bhutan, especially with regard to the melting of glaciers and vulnerability to glacier lake outburst floods.

16. Landlocked developing countries needed a new programme of action that built upon the Almaty Programme of Action and encapsulated other areas that would enable them to pursue robust economic growth by structurally transforming their economies, enhancing productive capacity and building resilience to meet ongoing and emerging challenges. The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would be an opportunity to highlight priority areas and integrate them into the post-2015 development agenda.

17. **Mr. Suan** (Myanmar) said that although the collective efforts of least developed countries and their development partners over the previous three years had generated some progress in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, many least developed countries were unlikely to achieve the MDGs before the deadline or the targets set by the Istanbul Programme of Action. Least developed countries needed to make sustained progress in productive capacity-building to realize the goals of the Istanbul

Programme of Action, which would require crucial financing and assistance from development partners. In that connection, Myanmar looked forward to the implementation of the Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in least developed countries.

18. His delegation was concerned about the recent decline in ODA to the least developed countries and hoped that the third International Conference on Financing for Development would help to find new solutions. The international community should give greater priority to the least developed countries when allocating assistance, including ODA. Other sources of financing for sustainable development should not be seen as a substitute for ODA, but rather as complementary and mutually reinforcing. Development partners should fulfil their commitment to ensure an enhanced predictable and sustainable flow of ODA and identify other support measures for least developed countries.

19. As the promotion of trade played a crucial role in the development of least developed countries, Myanmar welcomed the Bali Ministerial Declaration adopted in 2013, which had the potential to advance the cause of least developed countries in the multilateral trading system by ensuring duty-free, quota-free market access. Myanmar called for the renewed dedication of all stakeholders in North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation to achieving the development goals of least developed countries. It also hoped that the timely operationalization of the Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation Supporting Mechanism for the Least Developed Countries would help to transform least developed economies through technological leapfrogging.

20. It was crucial for all relevant stakeholders to be fully engaged in preparations for the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Programme of Action should be fully integrated into the post-2015 development agenda, with a focus on the shared interests and problems of least developed countries.

21. Myanmar had made great progress by integrating the Istanbul Programme of Action into its economic strategies, focusing on poverty reduction, rural development and job creation. Economic reform measures and increased FDI had helped its economy grow by 7.3 per cent in 2012-2013; an 8.7 per cent growth rate was predicted for 2014-2015. With the acceleration of political and economic reforms over the

past years and the gradual lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar, ODA flows to the country had started to increase. Debt sustainability had also started to improve, with nearly half of Myanmar's total external debt being cancelled by creditors in 2013. Market access had increased and Myanmar was now one of the top 10 FDI recipients among least developed countries, with an inflow of over US\$ 2 billion. That positive economic situation had led Myanmar to initiate preparations for graduation from least developed status. Myanmar hoped it would receive strong support from the regional and international community in that process.

22. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that a key priority area for helping least developed countries graduate was enhancing their productive capacity-building by ensuring reliable infrastructure, state-of-the-art technology, an efficient and productive labour force, a conducive industrial base, diversified yet predictable access to global markets, increased ODA and inward FDI. Although FDI to least developed countries had been steadily rising, it was concentrated in a few countries. In fact, only 1.7 per cent of all FDI had been allocated to least developed countries. While least developed countries needed to do their part to create a conducive environment for FDI, it was also imperative for development partners to provide incentives to their private investors. An investment support mechanism for least developed countries would be immensely helpful for maximizing the benefits of FDI.

23. Technology transfer was also essential in order for least developed countries to graduate. Home to millions of technology-competent young people, Bangladesh was ready to provide initial support to set up a Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, or a regional centre for it.

24. As trade was another area where least developed countries were marginalized, the decisions made during the WTO Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali regarding duty-free, quota-free market access for least developed countries, preferential rules of origin and the operationalization of the waiver concerning preferential treatment for services and service providers from least developed countries must be urgently implemented by all Member States.

25. For most of the least developed countries, ODA was still the most important source of financing for development. Although ODA to those countries had increased in 2013, it was not evenly distributed. His

delegation called on development partners to meet their commitments and to factor their ODA commitments into their regular budgets to ensure predictability and stability, consistent with the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. Least developed countries needed immediate support to combat climate change, as most were already suffering from its adverse effects.

26. It was a disgrace that in a world with an abundance of resources, many children still went to bed without a meal. The global community must do more, be more proactive and be better about fulfilling its commitments to help least developed countries graduate and achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

27. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that against a backdrop of sluggish and uneven global economic recovery, deteriorating humanitarian crises and the threat to global public safety posed by the Ebola virus outbreak, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries were faced with ever-increasing challenges. The international community should thus continue to support their development, translate commitments into actions and help build resiliency. ODA was the most direct and effective form of support for those countries, as well as their main source of external capital for development. Major donors should honour their commitments and ensure even allocation of aid to least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. The international community should likewise pay particular attention to areas of vital importance for the sustainable development of those countries, including productivity, infrastructure, transport, agriculture, energy and international trade.

28. The implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action had not been encouraging: a timely high-level midterm review should enable comprehensive stocktaking. China appreciated the mainstreaming of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the programmes of work of a number of United Nations bodies, but called on the executive bodies of other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to follow suit. While positive results had been achieved since the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, the overall economy of landlocked developing countries remained fragile. China hoped that the upcoming second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would push forward consultations in an active, flexible and cooperative manner, culminating in a balanced, pragmatic and win-

win outcome document. The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States must be fully equipped to monitor and implement programmes of action.

29. A staunch supporter of the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, China had been providing assistance within the framework of South-South Cooperation and would continue to work jointly with those countries in tackling development challenges.

30. China enjoyed a long-standing friendship with developing countries in Africa and was therefore deeply concerned about the Ebola epidemic, which had harmed the health and security of many, as well as local economic development and social stability, while posing a risk to global health and security. As soon as the epidemic had broken out, China had reacted rapidly by immediately sending humanitarian assistance to the affected areas in three batches at a cost of 234 million RMB yuan. It had also dispatched close to 200 experts and medical workers to West Africa to help fight the epidemic. A fourth batch of assistance had been announced, including ambulances, motorcycles, prevention and control kits and personal protective gear, and China also planned to train 10,000 local medical workers and community personnel in prevention and control. It attached great importance to the United Nations multilateral trust fund and would continue its donations in order to support the United Nations in leading and coordinating assistance to Africa. China hoped that the international community would also strengthen coordination and cooperation in the fight against Ebola, providing assistance and guidance to local populations. At the same time, the international community should take a long-term perspective and increase assistance to African countries with a view to building their capacity in the field of public health.

31. **Ms. Hassan-Sharp** (New Zealand) said that addressing the needs of countries in special situations was crucial to the success of a post-2015 agenda for global economic, social and environmental development. The 2014 International Conference on Small Island Developing States had revealed that while it was important to highlight and debate the challenges that vulnerable countries faced, it was more important to take concrete action to address those challenges. The creation of genuine and durable partnerships provided

a model for supporting countries in special situations. While they must be led by the countries themselves, partnerships could involve any permutation of Member States, United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations, local government, civil society, foundations and the private sector. No partnership was too small to count; what was essential was that they maintained clear targets, concrete outputs, planned outcomes and a specific timeline. It was the responsibility of all Member States to work with countries in special situations, each according to its means.

32. **Mr. Thammavongsa** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the least developed countries were unlikely to be able to fully implement the Istanbul Programme of Action by 2020. Many obstacles remained, both within the countries themselves and as a result of external factors such as violent conflicts, uncertainty in the recovery of the global economy, the adverse impact of climate change and natural disasters and the outbreak of diseases. Some least developed countries, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, also faced unique constraints arising from their landlocked situation. With limited domestic resources, least developed countries would not be able to overcome the challenges they faced; his delegation thus called on the international community, especially development partners, to continue to provide assistance, including ODA, to support the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

33. His Government had set the ambitious goal of graduating from least developed status by 2020 and had therefore mainstreamed the Istanbul Programme of Action into its various national plans for socioeconomic development.

34. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, landlocked developing countries faced special challenges associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and remoteness and their isolation from international markets, which were also compounded by burdensome transit procedures and insufficient transport infrastructure. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was grateful to transit countries, development partners and others for their valuable support in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, which had contributed substantially to addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries and led to achievements in transport infrastructure development and trade facilitation.

Nonetheless, landlocked developing countries remained on the margins of the global economy and were extremely vulnerable to external shocks and multi-interlinked challenges such as global economic and financial crises and the impact of environmental disaster and climate change. His delegation called on the international community to fulfil its commitments and intensify its support to help landlocked developing countries overcome their specific development challenges. It hoped that in a spirit of cooperation, Member States would work together to finalize the outcome document for the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

35. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had made steady progress in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, including in the development of road networks with neighbouring countries and of East-West and North-South corridors that would contribute to the realization of various Asian highways and regional connectivity. It had become a WTO member State and was also working towards the creation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area. Nevertheless, his delegation called for continued support from all transit countries and development partners to achieve further goals.

36. **Ms. El Midaoui** (Morocco) said that despite the international community's efforts at addressing the issues of countries in special situations, and four decades after the establishment of the Group of Least Developed Countries, many of those countries still faced enormous difficulties, which were now aggravated by new, multidimensional challenges. It was more necessary than ever to adopt a holistic and innovative approach to help least developed countries take charge of their future without fear of recurring crises and external shocks.

37. The next decade would be decisive for least developed countries and the development partners who had, since 1971, committed to supporting them. The global financial crisis, accelerated climate change, unemployment, poverty, epidemics and volatile food prices had compromised the prospects for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, which did not have the necessary financial, technological or human potential to face those challenges and adopt appropriate development policies. As financial resources were essential for the success of development policies in least developed countries, her delegation welcomed the

efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. It also looked forward to the third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in 2015 as an opportunity to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration and to identify remaining obstacles, especially regarding development financing for least developed countries.

38. Morocco, which had forged solid partnerships with least developed countries in the context of South-South cooperation and which granted duty-free, quota-free access to its markets for products from African least developed countries, had long defended the interests of the latter in international forums, including WTO, with regard to special and differential treatment in commercial sectors. Over the years, Morocco had organized a number of international conferences dedicated to the problems of least developed countries, including the Ninth African Development Forum, which had convened the week before on the theme "Innovative financing for Africa's transformation".

39. Morocco had always developed multisectoral cooperation with least developed countries through bilateral and regional programmes that emphasized exchange and investment in such vital areas as environmental protection, agribusiness, the pharmaceutical industry, irrigation, locust control, access to potable water, infrastructure, financial services, health, basic telecommunications and executive management training. Morocco believed that a development agenda that would help countries in special situations must be based on a global and long-term vision.

40. **Ms. Zvereva** (Russian Federation) said that it was important to include the needs of countries in special situations in the post-2015 development agenda. The Russian Federation supported the efforts of least developed countries to achieve national development in accordance with the approaches and goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and welcomed the intention of some least developed countries to graduate from that status during the upcoming decade. It was fundamentally important for the process of graduation to be carried out in conformity with the landmark General Assembly resolution on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

(A/RES/59/209), the Istanbul Programme of Action, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration.

41. The Russian Federation reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation and development assistance to countries in need, especially least developed countries. Excluding debt relief, her country's contribution to development assistance had totalled \$610 million in 2013. The Russian Federation paid special attention to strengthening the trade capacity of least developed countries, and had a special preferential regime to support traditional national industries exporting goods from least developed countries.

42. Notable progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, especially with regard to legal regulations and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms in transit, transport and trade, had facilitated cross-border commodity turnover. Her delegation welcomed the broader participation of the private sector in managing transit corridors and developing infrastructure and more effective support for transit mechanisms. The Russian Federation supported the Aid for Trade initiative launched by WTO.

43. The new programme of action to emerge from the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries should place greater emphasis on measures to ensure the comprehensive integration of those countries into the global economy, in part by further developing their transport capabilities, diversifying their economies and addressing climate change.

44. The Russian Federation attached great importance to developing its partnerships with North-east Asian countries as part of the Greater Tumen Initiative. The regional transport strategy provided for the creation and operationalization of six international transport corridors. Infrastructure proposals had also been made for a North-east Asian Export Import Banks Association, a multilateral financing instrument that would help to further revitalize the global partnership for transit and transport between landlocked developing countries and their development partners and neighbours.

45. **Ms. Anate Balli** (Togo) said that Togo had integrated the majority of actions contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action into its national development policy. Its strategy was focused on developing sectors with high growth potential, strengthening economic infrastructures, developing

human capital, social protection and employment, enhancing governance, and generally encouraging sustainable, participatory and inclusive development. As for economic infrastructure, Togo had seen notable progress in recent years, especially with regard to ports, airports and roads. The new container shipping wharf built in Lomé would help to position Togo as a choice destination for international shipping. A joint project between Benin, Nigeria and Togo, it would also help landlocked developing countries in the subregion.

46. The Lomé international airport had also been modernized thanks to private financing, with support from bilateral and multilateral partners and significant Government expenditure, in accordance with the recommendations of the Istanbul Programme of Action. In addition, the rate of mobile broadband penetration in the country had risen to 64.24 per cent in 2013, well above the target goal of 57 per cent. Other achievements included greater budgetary allocations to education, a primary school attendance rate that was steadily increasing, and implementation of a national health policy to bolster the fight against maternal and neo-natal mortality, and malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable and non-communicable diseases.

47. Despite all those efforts, major challenges remained. To overcome them, her Government had launched vast programmes to improve economic governance and reform public finance through the creation of a single window for foreign trade and a central revenue office with a view to better mobilizing domestic resources for development financing. In a similar vein, Togo was elaborating its Togo 2030 plan, which took into account relevant international programmes of action and would require the sustained support of the international community.

48. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that landlocked developing countries faced many challenges, including transport costs that were increasing in comparison to coastal economies, low trade volumes and economies dependent on a single commodity. Food security and agriculture were also threatened by land degradation, desertification and climate change. She noted that landlocked developing countries were among the most vulnerable to climate change and the least able to adopt adaptation and mitigation measures. External shocks and volatile commodity prices made their economic growth uncertain. Many of those countries had not yet fully recovered from the staggering losses of revenue caused by the 2008 global financial and economic



crisis. Furthermore, their geographical isolation placed them at a major disadvantage when it came to attracting FDI and integrating into the global trading system.

49. Botswana therefore called on the international community to increase capacity-building and technical and financial assistance for the development of road, rail and telecommunication networks as well as pipelines for water and energy infrastructure necessary to mitigate import and export transaction costs. Botswana looked forward to the adoption of a transformative programme of action at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries that would complement the post-2015 framework and poverty eradication efforts.

50. **Ms. Yeshmagambetova** (Kazakhstan) said that the Almaty Programme of Action had helped create new linkages and strengthen existing partnerships between landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and partners, including multilateral institutions. Since 2003, landlocked developing countries had achieved greater short-term average GDP growth rates, and even managed to double their share of global merchandise exports. Institutional and policy environments had greatly improved. Landlocked developing countries were slowly but steadily becoming business-friendly, competitive and attractive to foreign investors.

51. Priority areas identified in the new programme of action for landlocked developing countries should serve as a useful framework for new targets developed in line with national development policies, strategies and priorities. Expected outcomes in each priority area should be enhanced through genuine partnerships between landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and their development partners at bilateral, regional and global levels, including public and private partnership between countries based on an equitable sharing of benefits. The new programme of action should consider the specific needs and obstacles of each landlocked developing country. The potential of regional economic integration, including increased intraregional trade and intraregional FDI and improved connectivity through transport, energy and information and communications technology networks, must continue to be exploited. Landlocked developing countries must leverage regional preferential and multilateral trading arrangements to the fullest potential.

Lastly, the new programme must address the increasingly urgent challenge of climate change.

52. Although the economies of landlocked developing countries showed relatively high trade openness, their absolute level of trade was still far from reaching its full potential. Landlocked countries must therefore pursue economic diversification, promote greater productivity, move up the value chain and establish the infrastructure needed for increased exports.

53. As the country furthest from any seaport, Kazakhstan understood the necessity of developing effective transit systems and transport infrastructure; becoming one of the 30 most developed economies was a goal of its 2050 strategy. The 2050 strategy's top priorities — eliminating trade and transit barriers and developing logistics infrastructure — mirrored the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

54. In 2017, Kazakhstan would host Astana Expo 2017 under the theme "Future Energy". The Expo would explore strategies, programmes and technologies aimed at developing sustainable energy, promoting energy security and efficiency and encouraging the use of renewable energy. Kazakhstan hoped that many landlocked developing countries would be able to participate, share their experiences, showcase their solutions and learn from others facing similar challenges.

55. **Ms. Miyano** (Japan) said that Japan welcomed the new paradigm for poverty eradication through productive capacity-building promoted by the Istanbul Programme of Action. The new paradigm was consistent with Japan's national policy of capacity development emphasizing ownership and partnership. Her country looked forward to the midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2016. Japan also welcomed the more diverse array of development access options available to least developed countries; and, in that context, promoted triangular cooperation by assisting middle-income countries in their efforts to support least developed countries. The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission could be another powerful tool to support development in countries emerging from conflict.

56. Private investment, and especially FDI, played an important role in technology transfer but also in creating jobs, boosting productivity, and supplying local goods in least developed countries. People-centred investment

and technology were keys to achieving development. In that connection, Japan looked forward to the recommendations of the panel of experts that would be constituted under resolution 68/224 to examine the scope and functions of a technology bank.

57. Japan had been one of the first countries to address the issues of remoteness and landlocked situations and had worked to develop corridors in Asia and Africa. Geographical differences and differing trade conditions between landlocked developing countries and other countries, infrastructure development, and international trade and trade facilitation — which were issues highlighted in the Almaty Programme of Action — should remain the focus of a concise political document to be adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. Japan supported a comprehensive approach to a new action plan, whose core concern should remain the unfinished business of trade. Stressing the need for an enabling environment for trade and investment, she said that her country, like many others, was concerned that the deadline for the adoption of a trade facilitation agreement had not been met.

58. Cooperation in disaster risk reduction was extremely important for least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. Japan looked forward to broad participation in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which it would be hosting in March 2015.

59. **Mr. Karaçay** (Turkey) said that the burden of economic challenges was most severely felt by the least developed countries and consequently, no effort should be spared to help them create an environment for increased production, trade and investment, and job creation. Regrettably, the scale of development assistance, FDI, and private capital flows to least developed countries was not at the desired level. Although FDI was more important relative to domestic investment in those countries, the limited FDI inflows were allocated to a narrow range of industries; innovative ways of increasing FDI should be developed. The international investment support centre for least developed countries recommended in the Cotonou Agenda was therefore worthy of consideration.

60. Stressing the importance of implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, he said that Turkey was committed to supporting least developed countries in their efforts to graduate from least developed status

and recognized that further and urgent efforts were needed to that end. A smooth transition must be established to guarantee the irreversibility of graduation.

61. Building productive capacity in least developed countries through technology transfers was necessary for technological leapfrogging. As Turkey believed that enhancing cooperation in science, technology and innovation was highly relevant to the sustainable development of the least developed countries, it stood ready to host the Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Information Supporting Mechanism dedicated to their needs. Turkey looked forward to the appointment of a panel of experts to consider a technology bank.

62. With its 39 coordination offices in 38 countries working in sectors such as education, health, water and sanitation, energy, tourism and agriculture, The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency played a major role in the technical cooperation and coordination of Turkey's ODA. Turkey was also scaling up its cooperation with small island developing States and looked forward to the outcome of the forthcoming second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

63. Turkey would be pleased to host the midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action. When it assumed the presidency of the Group of 20 in the months to come, the least developed countries would be given priority.

64. **Ms. Beck** (Solomon Islands) said that least developed countries needed sustainable global partnerships to further implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to enable half of least developed countries to graduate by 2020. Her delegation supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to strengthen investment in productive capacities, promote trade regimes, encourage both public and private FDI and create employment in least developed countries and small island developing States. Unfortunately, many least developed countries still lagged behind in accomplishing the MDGs and other internationally agreed goals, and were the most exposed to climate change and natural disasters. Timely and targeted investment and economic transformation were needed to reduce extreme poverty, especially through game-changing investments in productive sectors such as agriculture, food security, rural

development, trade, commodities, human and social development, and to mobilize financial resources for development. Her delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of the Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in least developed countries.

65. Many least developed countries were post-conflict and conflict-affected nations. In order to enhance productive capacities for nation-building to sustain peace and development, investment must remain central to peacebuilding initiatives. Trade was the engine of growth and a key component for least developed countries to alleviate poverty and create jobs. Unfortunately, the shares of least developed countries in global trade remained very low. Her delegation was concerned about the lack of international will to conclude the Doha Round of trade negotiations, especially as it prevented least developed countries from benefiting from duty-free, quota-free market access as agreed in the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. Her delegation encouraged efforts to build on the Bali package regarding preferential trade terms for least developed countries.

66. Regarding climate change, the international community must ensure that the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded with a legally binding agreement to guarantee the survival of least developed countries and small island developing States, especially through sufficiently funded adaptation and mitigation actions. Investment in renewable energy and strong partnerships had the potential to close the mitigation gap and transform lives in least developed countries, especially rural communities. Her country had incorporated the principles of the Istanbul Programme of Action into its national development plan and hoped that its development partners would support that initiative.

67. The Samoa Pathway reaffirmed the international community's commitment to the priorities of small island developing States. Her delegation encouraged development partners and the United Nations system to work together to make the Pathway a venue of cooperation. It was necessary to operationalize the technology bank for least developed countries, as technology was needed to fully implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and build resilience in least developed countries and small island developing States. In conclusion, she expressed the hope that that the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked

Developing Countries would produce a positive outcome.

68. **Ms. Heher** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that despite the gradual economic recovery in least developed countries, the distribution of growth had been very uneven, and the number of countries achieving the 7 per cent growth target of the Istanbul Programme of Action had decreased in the past years. Building productive capacities — by fostering structural transformation, strengthening economic diversification and increasing competitiveness — not only created much-needed jobs, especially for women and youth, but also reduced the high dependency of least developed countries on a few commodities, thus lowering their vulnerability to shocks.

69. Landlocked developing countries continued to bear high costs for trade participation, an indispensable engine for sustainable development. As infrastructure and competitive productive capacities were prerequisites for trade, the steady de-industrialization trend in landlocked developing countries was greatly concerning. The Draft Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, however, provided some reassurance. UNIDO welcomed, in particular, Priority Four of the Draft Programme of Action on structural economic transformation, productive capacity development and value addition.

70. Convinced that inclusive and sustainable industrialization was key to assisting least developed countries and landlocked developing countries in overcoming their specific challenges, UNIDO was implementing its Least Developed Country Strategy and Operational Plan 2012-2020, which emphasized South-South and triangular cooperation in the areas of small and medium-sized enterprise development, trade capacity-building and investment promotion. UNIDO was also formulating several pilot Country Partnership Programmes targeting least developed countries and landlocked developing countries under its 2013 Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Country Programmes established concrete partnerships with local and global actors in business, governments, finance, research and academia; development partners; and civil society to catalyse their knowledge and resources.

*The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.*