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Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 7 October 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Niang (Senegal)
later: Ms. Angelova (Vice-Chair) (Bulgaria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

General debate (continued)

1. **Mr. Verdier** (Argentina) said that, in 2019, his country had hosted the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which had allowed countries to share knowledge and strengthen skills on a range of issues including science and technology, which were important tools for eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. South-South and triangular cooperation helped to build the capacities necessary to reduce inequality and ensure respect for the unique features of different areas and countries, and was therefore crucial to gathering the scientific knowledge required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. His Government attached great importance to education and had co-chaired the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning and worked with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to help countries exchange experience and achieve Goal 4. Since poverty could not be eradicated in the absence of an environment that fostered dignified work, his Government reaffirmed its commitment to the Alliance 8.7 initiative, which sought to eradicate modern slavery in all its forms and ensure decent work for all.

3. Small and medium-sized enterprises were crucial stakeholders in national economies. His Government had acknowledged the major role played by such firms in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the Goals by championing General Assembly resolution [71/279](#) on Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day. The incorporation of responsible and sustainable practices in complex value chains could contribute to improving the environment and mitigating the effect of climate change, achieving gender equality and promoting innovation to achieve the Goals. Increased references to small and medium enterprises in United Nations documents were welcome and should be continued to help them harness their full potential.

4. **Mr. Idris** (Eritrea) said that, despite the visionary pledge of the Sustainable Development Goals and reductions in extreme poverty and child mortality rates, the scale and speed of action required to meet those Goals was lacking. Hundreds of millions languished in extreme poverty and died from preventable diseases while income inequality continued to grow; a paradigm shift was needed. Multilateralism must be revamped, since the international development agenda would not succeed while global governance institutions disregarded and

stifled the views of the global South on international financial, trade and security matters. The objective of leaving no one behind could not be achieved in the face of shrinking international solidarity and assistance accompanied by crippling conditionalities that often prevented countries from charting their own economic and social course. The 2030 Agenda could not succeed without recognition that the dominant social, economic and political ideologies were exploitative and benefited the few to the detriment of humanity and the planet.

5. Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda demanded a rethink of economic models. His delegation called on the international community to deliver on its commitments by getting the policies right and marshalling the resources needed to build a better future for all. That would require the full and effective participation of all stakeholders in working towards the Goals. The Committee had a crucial role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by fostering international understanding, and must closely align its work with the Goals. The Committee's work would be enhanced by reducing overlaps and increasing complementarities, while its resolutions should be concise and action-oriented.

6. His country had been working towards sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions through a balanced and integrated approach. A programme had been launched to jump-start the economy and provide social services to all citizens within five years. His Government was working with other countries to ensure peace and prosperity in the horn of Africa and devote resources previously diverted to peace and security to accelerating social, economic, political and cultural development. While greater domestic resource mobilization was needed to sustain development, global partnerships also needed to be scaled up and substantial investment attracted to the economy. No effort would be spared to become a middle-income country by 2030.

7. **Ms. Oehri** (Liechtenstein) said that, in the light of a mixed record on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, greater engagement from States, the private sector and civil society was needed to make it a success. Her Government actively combated illicit financial flows that deprived Governments and citizens of resources for sustainable development, and undermined the rule of law and public institutions. Different illicit financial flows, whether from drug trafficking, trade misinvoicing or undeclared offshore wealth, called for distinct analyses to inform policy responses. Those responses should go hand in hand with the promotion and protection of the rule of law, effective, accountable

and inclusive institutions at all levels, and increased efforts to reduce corruption, in line with Goal 16.

8. The horrendous crimes of modern slavery and trafficking in persons affected 40 million victims worldwide and generated revenue of \$150 billion each year. The complex phenomena of slavery and trafficking were reflected in Goal targets 8.7, 5.2 and 16.2 and required comprehensive responses and cooperation among all relevant actors, including the global financial sector. The Liechtenstein Initiative, a public-private partnership for a financial sector commission on modern slavery and human trafficking, had been launched in 2018 and had drafted a blueprint for mobilizing finance against slavery and trafficking. The blueprint would equip the global financial sector to prevent and combat those crimes through measures such as sustainable and innovative financing and compliance and regulation. The Committee, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Security Council should secure political backing for and facilitate dissemination of the blueprint, while Governments and financial institutions should enter into partnerships to implement it.

9. Blockchain technology had the potential to address slavery and trafficking and help to implement other Goals by bringing transparency to production chains and detecting modern slavery risks, while digital identification could accelerate the financial inclusion of victims and smartphone apps based on blockchain technology could reduce the cost of remittances. The Committee was well positioned to reflect on how best to use the potential of blockchain and other new technologies for sustainable development, while assessing and addressing their risks. The legislation on blockchain and other technologies adopted in Liechtenstein created legal certainty for businesses and was aimed at preventing abuses. A side event would be held on the legislation, to which all were invited.

10. Liechtenstein remained committed to a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its centre, and deplored tendencies that undermined that system and favoured isolationism and protectionism. Her country's staunch support for WTO was complemented by its free trade policy, which contributed to the three pillars of sustainable development: the economy, society and the environment.

11. **Dame Karen Pierce** (United Kingdom) said that delivery of the collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was falling short. The United Kingdom was committed to

accelerating efforts to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals at home and abroad. The use of data would be crucial in that regard to identify those at risk of being left behind, understand why and develop the right solutions. Evidence should therefore be at the heart of the Committee's discussions, and focus placed on areas with the greatest potential for progress and impact.

12. Climate change was the biggest threat to the common vision of sustainable development for all and pressure on Governments and the multilateral system to take decisive action was growing. The Committee's theme for the session presented a chance to bring together the themes of the economy, the environment and the climate to discuss the creation of a green and inclusive economy. The following year would be critical; the opportunities presented by the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Biological Diversity Convention and the World Ocean Summit must be seized to accelerate action and embed the links between biodiversity protection and enhancement, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

13. The United Kingdom had legally committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and, during the week of high-level meetings, had doubled its international climate finance and had announced new measures to stop the destruction of forests and species. It would be an honour to host the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in partnership with Italy, and her Government was also building a global alliance to safeguard the oceans and marine life, and leading efforts on action for climate adaptation and resilience. In response to the call by the Secretary-General, in February 2020, her Government would present a new intended nationally determined contribution that represented its highest possible ambition, and encouraged other Member States to do the same.

14. Her Government was proud to meet the commitment to allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to official development assistance (ODA), and to be the third largest donor to the United Nations. That commitment came with a level of scrutiny, however, to ensure that aid got to those who needed it most. Each dollar must provide the maximum possible sustainable impact. Economic progress also required boosting transparency, fighting corruption and tackling ineffective bureaucracy. Private sector investment in domestic countries' domestic resources was also critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite agreement that a holistic approach was needed to

mobilize the required scale of resources, the international community was struggling to deliver; macroeconomic negotiations needed to evolve to better contribute to scaled up multi-stakeholder financing for development.

15. The 2030 Agenda was gender-sensitive and grounded in international human rights standards, and acknowledged the complementarity of sustainable development, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Inclusive sustainable development should be centred on human rights. The United Kingdom would continue to promote, protect and fulfil all human rights standards, including gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, as part of the 2030 Agenda. It was not just a moral obligation, but a necessity for economic progress and sustainable development.

16. A rules-based international system with the United Nations at its core was fundamental to the shift to sustainable and inclusive growth. The 2030 Agenda should guide policy and action, and be supported by a refocused Committee that drove implementation forward. Improved working methods were already benefiting the Committee and her delegation supported the call for more action-oriented resolutions and an informal working group to consider proposals to address gaps, overlaps and duplications in its work. General Assembly budget procedures should be implemented and the Committee should focus on new or established resolutions that could contribute to real delivery.

17. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria) said that the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the high-level dialogue on financing for development were particularly relevant to the work of the Committee. The theme for the general debate of the General Assembly, galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion, was similarly apposite. Challenges, including slower growth, trade tensions, rising income inequality and conflict, required appropriate policy responses that recognized their interlinked nature. Efforts for poverty eradication should be both global – through increased ODA – and local.

18. The States members of the African Union had embraced Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and were investing to build a prosperous Africa, but the United Nations should continue backing African countries. Algeria and Denmark had facilitated intergovernmental negotiations on General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) on repositioning the United Nations development system, which should be fully implemented. The repositioning initiated on 1 January 2019 would help to better address

countries' development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. His country had submitted its voluntary national review, which presented an analysis of the public policies that had enabled the emergence of a peaceful, gender-balanced and plural society that was keen to contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

19. The international community had not justly addressed the permanent sovereignty over natural resources of peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation. His delegation appealed to all States to act to prevent any illegal trade and shipping of looted natural resources. Legislative measures should be taken in line with international law, such as the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Such activities alienated peoples from their legitimate natural wealth and affected their chances of future development.

20. The many important conferences and high-level meetings that had taken place in 2019 on topics addressed by the Committee, such as South-South cooperation, middle-income countries and illicit financial flows, represented a pledge to multilateralism and would enrich deliberations over the coming weeks.

21. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba) said that her Government would participate in the work of the Committee with a view to eradicating development obstacles, gaps and challenges that affected African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries or peoples under foreign occupation, as well as the difficulties faced by middle-income countries. That would require a reaffirmation of the collective commitment and political will to preserve, promote and strengthen multilateralism, and strict adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. The imposition of unilateral protectionist measures that promoted national interests to the detriment of global and multilateral solutions would hinder the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. National features, capacities and levels of development should be respected, alongside the sovereign equality of each Member State. It was vital to prevent the international system from becoming an instrument for the strongest to legitimize the imposition of unilateral measures on the weakest. The global order should be rules-based, fair and equitable.

22. Poverty, including extreme poverty, could only be eradicated by tackling its root causes. Despite progress in the four years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, conditions were worsening in many areas. Social polarization was increasing and wealth was being concentrated in the hands of a rich elite. While the

resources, technology and capacity to reverse that trend existed, the political will was lacking, as indicated by the annual military expenditure of the United States of America. Only five of the most powerful countries had honoured their commitments on ODA; the majority of developed countries had refused to do so. Each time that consensus was sought on a document, a new international financial architecture was required. A lasting solution was also needed to the problem of foreign debt, which had been paid several times over.

23. The Paris Agreement was not sufficient to tackle climate change, but the international community must build on the commitments enshrined therein to protect the planet for future generations. No country, not even the United States of America as one of the greatest historical polluters, could unilaterally reject its international and historical responsibilities in that regard, or what it owed to future generations.

24. The international community had rejected the imposition of unilateral coercive measures that were contrary to international law on a number of occasions. Cuba had suffered the effects of the illegal economic blockade imposed by the United States of America for almost 60 years. That blockade had worsened with the activation of title III of the Helms-Burton Act, which had been rejected by the international community. Nonetheless, the Cuban people continued to work to implement the 2030 Agenda and build an independent, prosperous and sustainable socialist nation.

25. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that the deadline for the 2030 Agenda was not as far off as it seemed, and progress was lagging behind on a number of key Sustainable Development Goals and targets. It was therefore critical to reinforce collective political will, commitment and resources, and the shared belief in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Cherry-picking Goals was neither desirable, nor feasible as the different elements of the 2030 Agenda were interconnected. Development programmes should be customized to the requirements of national Governments, which was why her country supported the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

26. A vital aspect in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was the availability of appropriate resources. Developed countries needed to go beyond existing ODA commitments and the resolve to implement the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development should be strengthened. The international tax system should be overhauled, particularly in relation to the use of multinational companies' profits. Domestic resources in developing countries could be enhanced by

combating corruption and illicit financial flows, and returning ill-gotten wealth stashed abroad. Due importance must be given to the use of information and communication technologies for sustainable development and financial inclusion.

27. South-South cooperation, while an important instrument, was not a substitute for North-South cooperation. The basic principles of South-South cooperation – non-interference, its voluntary nature and the leadership of partnering States – must be respected, including in the context of triangular cooperation, which should be driven by the countries of the South.

28. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions was the fundamental priority of her Government. Progress towards that goal was being achieved through increasing the availability of public resources to the poor and underprivileged. It was important to reach out to those furthest behind, including people living under foreign occupation. Climate change was also a critical issue for developing countries like Pakistan, and impacted its economic viability. A large proportion of the population in such countries was not only climate vulnerable, but survived on natural resources, making urgent action imperative. The Climate Action Summit 2019 had provided a platform to steer efforts in the right direction and its outcome would provide useful inputs to the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

29. As the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations approached, commitment to multilateralism must be renewed, particularly in view of queries about whether the United Nations was fit for purpose in the twenty-first century and the frequent recourse to unilateralism by some countries. The ability to counter that cynicism and unilateralism rested on a shared commitment to the Charter of the United Nations.

30. **Mr. Cho** Tae-yul (Republic of Korea) said that the high-level meetings that had taken place in recent weeks had provided an opportunity to take stock of progress, and had made it clear that, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, much more must be done much faster. The Committee's work was vital in that regard. The Committee must stay relevant by streamlining its work, in line with the 2030 Agenda, and addressing the challenges to its mandate. His delegation welcomed plans to convene an informal working group to make the Committee more effective, efficient and disciplined, and stood ready to engage in those discussions.

31. Since no single Goal could be achieved in isolation, the cross-cutting issues and interlinkages among them should be effectively addressed to

minimize trade-offs and maximize synergies. Inequalities within and among countries were of particular concern, since they eroded social cohesion and hindered equitable development. The Committee should address inequality in a holistic manner. As Chair of the Group of Friends on Sustainable Development Goal 10, his Government had taken action to mainstream that issue, including at the high-level political forum and through participation in the Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion.

32. Action for climate adaptation and to counter the climate crisis must be stepped up, and in that regard the convening of the Climate Action Summit 2019 was appreciated. The Republic of Korea was doing its part by implementing the Paris Agreement, making efforts to transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy and doubling its contribution to the Green Climate Fund. It was also hosting the second summit of the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 initiative. Noting the links between climate change and air pollution, he planned to submit a draft resolution on the designation of an international day for blue sky.

33. Further attention was needed to strengthen partnerships for the 2030 Agenda. The engagement of the private sector, especially in mobilizing and redirecting resources, was vital. Local communities, civil society organizations and academia were also important partners and partnership within the United Nations system must be strengthened. Progress in the ongoing reforms to the United Nations development system was welcome and would support achievement of the Goals.

34. **Mr. Valtýsson** (Iceland) said that the high-level political forum had revealed that, despite important achievements in a number of fields, more efforts were needed from all States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government remained committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad. Climate change affected all aspects of the 2030 Agenda and its negative effects were felt by all. Iceland was aiming to be carbon neutral by 2040, and was working with other European States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A new Icelandic policy on international development cooperation that was aligned with the Goals had been agreed, with a focus on addressing climate change, gender inequalities and human rights for all.

35. Sustainability had been key to his country's prosperity and survival for a long time. Sustainable management of the oceans was vital, since they were directly affected by climate change. Iceland had focused on recovering land quality and limiting land degradation for some years, but further cooperation and joint action

would be needed to deliver on Goal 15. His Government continued to support the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including through the Group of Friends on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. It should be borne in mind that some of the most effective solutions were low cost and nature-based, like land restoration, an intervention that connected enhanced food security, water, biodiversity, reduced climate emissions, social stability and ultimately peace and security. It should be remembered that women bore the brunt of climate change. Respect for human rights and gender equality were cross-cutting issues, and his delegation encouraged countries to focus on increasing gender equality and empowering women, and to grant increased attention to groups that lacked fundamental rights, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

36. His delegation wished to emphasize the importance of quality basic health care that was accessible and affordable to all, the health and nutrition of mothers and children, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Equal access to quality education was positive for society and was stressed in his country's development cooperation. Working with the private sector to create work opportunities and increase investment was an important path to sustainable growth, and Iceland was also committed to sharing its knowledge of renewable energy, fisheries, land restoration and gender equality, including through United Nations training programmes. The first voluntary national review of Iceland had been presented in July 2019.

37. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that the Climate Action Summit 2019 had seen young activists calling for action. The message from small island developing States was also clear. The most recent disaster in the Caribbean had highlighted again the way that disasters could wipe out hard fought development gains. There was an urgent need to manage and reduce disaster risk, as small island States and least developed countries faced the worst consequences of climate change. The loss of biological diversity was closely linked to climate change and unprecedented environmental challenges threatened food systems, health, livelihoods and security. The preservation of nature and mitigation of climate change were interconnected. Norway was doubling its contribution to the Green Climate Fund, had made building resilience a priority in development assistance and would highlight the links between security and sustainable development. Others should follow her country's lead and strengthen their intended nationally determined contributions. Holding the presidency of the

United Nations Environment Assembly, her country would work hard to make progress. Ensuring the health of the planet remained essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

38. The high-level political forum had made it clear that the world was not on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. To leave no one behind, leadership and ownership must be aligned with policies and planning. The mobilization of financing for the Goals, including from the private sector, and domestic resource mobilization needed to be strengthened. Fair and predictable taxation regimes would be good for government revenues and businesses. A broad and forceful international coalition was needed to fight corruption; integrity, transparency and accountability were key to stopping illicit financial flows. Given that ODA remained important, particularly for least developed countries, her Government would continue to allocate funds to ODA that exceeded the United Nations target. Investment in quality education, especially for girls, was vital to sustainable development, since spending on education, health and gender equality yielded high returns as a driver of economic growth and development. Despite the remaining challenges, many countries had made good progress on the Goals. The voluntary national reviews had shown that Governments were proactively implementing the 2030 Agenda, which was inspiring. A workshop on preparing national voluntary reviews would be held in Oslo in November 2019.

39. Member States had agreed on ambitious reform of the United Nations to deliver better results in a more coherent, integrated and efficient way. For that reform to succeed, all parts of the United Nations system and Member States needed to support it. During its presidency of the Economic and Social Council, Norway would maintain the priorities of financing for development, United Nations reform and gender equality.

40. **Mr. Vongxay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that he appreciated the convening of the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the new initiatives by Member State-led coalitions and multi-stakeholders to reduce the impacts of climate change, particularly in vulnerable groups of countries. The consequences of climate change in his country in 2019 had damaged infrastructure and peoples' livelihoods. He thanked development partners, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders for their continued support in responding to the needs of affected communities.

41. While the global economy had grown over the past two years, trade tensions had affected growth projections for international trade, which was an engine for inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and development,

including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Global economic uncertainty, compounded by climate change, natural disasters and widening income inequality within and among countries threatened to disrupt global economic activity and hinder the long-term development agenda. Growth remained uneven and failed to reach the countries that needed it most, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, which required higher levels of investment to meet their specific development needs and challenges, and to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The international community should focus special attention on the development needs of those groups of countries, so that they were not left behind.

42. Recognition of the particular needs of countries in special situations was appreciated. Sustainable development required a revitalized and resilient multilateralism and enhanced regional and international cooperation. Reforms of the United Nations and other international organizations, including the international financial institutions, should be carried out with a view to addressing rising inequalities. The repositioned United Nations development system should be able to respond effectively to Member States' development needs and priorities, with particular attention paid to countries in special situations. Development must remain a priority, at the core of the United Nations.

43. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the global landscape for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals had deteriorated since 2015, and commitment to multilateral cooperation was under severe pressure. The sluggish progress in a number of areas could be attributed to the failure of developed countries to keep their side of the bargain, including on technology transfer, capacity-building and financial resources. The pressure on multilateralism had generated challenges for financing and development as protectionist and embargo policies introduced by major players had cast doubt on the effectiveness of multilateral financing and trading systems. The international community should ensure that financing for development was not held hostage to a coercive and restrictive agenda of the financier countries and organizations. The concerns expressed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda remained and ODA was far from reaching expectations.

44. International trade continued to play its traditional role as an engine for economic growth and development. It was the right of every sovereign State to be part of a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. WTO, which had denied membership to the

Islamic Republic of Iran for more than two decades, was now the target of harsh unilateral behaviour that put the whole international trading system at risk.

45. The international community had striven to address the challenge of climate change through various agreements, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. The former provided the basis for actions, responsibilities and commitments, and its principles should be recalled, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities, and the historical responsibilities of developed countries. The long-term goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement would be achieved if developed countries abided by their responsibilities and commitments to provide adequate, predictable and timely support, including finance and technology transfer.

46. Unlawful and illegitimate unilateral coercive measures imposed by some countries against developing countries had intensified, depriving many countries of their inalienable right to development, undermining the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and even reversing progress achieved. The phrase “sustainable development for all” had become a slogan that was out of reach. The accumulation of inequalities caused by irresponsible unilateral measures and discrimination against developing countries allowed little prospect of improvement. Frank reflection was needed on the world’s current situation, alongside renewed commitment to multilateralism. That was particularly the case when the life of a nation was threatened or the development of a country suppressed by the exercise of economic terrorism. The international community had a responsibility to adopt policies and measures to eliminate illegal and unfair acts and create an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels.

47. **Mr. Siddig** (Sudan) said that the eradication of poverty, including extreme poverty, was a prerequisite for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a great challenge on which all efforts should be focused. Despite the work of developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda and the progress achieved on a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, major challenges hindered full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Multilateralism was endangered by climate change and its devastating impact on the planet. International efforts were needed to tackle soil degradation, drought, desertification and famine, as well as the challenges posed by economic stagnation and recession and the erosion of international trade.

48. The Sudan was a least developed and low-income country that was emerging from conflict and burdened by

debt, and which hosted 2 million refugees. It was also the victim of unilateral economic sanctions and was unable to access assistance or loans from international financial institutions. That situation had hindered programmes and strategies to eradicate poverty and make progress on the economy and development. Implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda required international efforts. In that regard, the international community must uphold its commitments to financing for least developed countries and ODA should be boosted. His delegation called for technology transfer, assistance, training and capacity-building, and for his country’s debt burden to be lifted so that the sustainable development agenda could be implemented. Countries emerging from conflict should receive assistance for reconstruction, rather than aid, to allow them to flourish. His delegation supported reform of the United Nations development system to support developing countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

49. **Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) said that the Committee should generate momentum for the efforts of the international community to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the goal of leaving no one behind. A global consensus should be forged to make development a priority. The international community should also speed up action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and development should be at the heart of the global macroeconomic policy framework. Countries should integrate the 2030 Agenda into their medium and long-term strategies in accordance with international conditions and their stage of development. Since poverty was the greatest challenge to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, poverty eradication should be a top priority. A focus on infrastructure, health care, education and other areas closely linked to livelihoods would improve well-being.

50. As engagement in cooperation and a deepened global partnership for development were key, the international community should build new types of international relationships based on mutual respect, fairness, justice and willing cooperation. The international architecture for cooperation should be safeguarded, with the main channel of North-South cooperation supplemented by South-South cooperation. Developed countries should honour their ODA commitments and increase assistance for developing countries to boost development according to need. Developing countries should forge greater solidarity and seek greater strength through unity and South-South cooperation. The reform of the United Nations development system should be viewed as an opportunity to support Member States to better implement the 2030 Agenda.

51. There was a need to advance global economic governance and create an enabling international environment for development. The international community should uphold multilateralism and the multilateral trading system, oppose all forms of protectionism and unilateralism, build an open global economy and help developing countries to better integrate into the global industrial and supply chain. The concerns of developing countries should be heeded and their voice strengthened in global economic governance.

52. The Belt and Road Initiative was focused on development and was a commitment to cooperation in order to improve lives and promote sustainable development. In the six years since its launch, many agreements on the Initiative had been signed with other countries and international organizations, and more than 300,000 jobs had been created overseas. The Initiative was fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and would accelerate achievement of the Goals worldwide.

53. It was 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China. In just a few decades 850 million persons had been lifted out of poverty and industrialization had been achieved. The development of China had made outstanding contributions to world peace and prosperity, and China was the second largest contributor to the United Nations regular and peacekeeping budgets. China had been the top contributor to global economic growth for more than a decade and had the second highest level of foreign direct investment. China remained a developing country, however, and would always link its development to that of other developing countries in order to build a shared future for mankind.

54. **Ms. Raz** (Afghanistan) said that decisive action was needed to overcome the pressures on multilateral cooperation, economic slowdown, and income and wealth inequality in order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Although Afghanistan was a conflict-affected, least developed and landlocked country at the forefront of the fight against international terrorism and violent extremism, firm steps were being taken towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. National goals for sustainable development had been adopted in line with national development priorities, needs and resources. An integrated monitoring and reporting mechanism was being mainstreamed into the national planning and budgeting processes.

55. Conflict not only posed an obstacle to development, but could reverse gains made. The focus must remain on the most vulnerable. Despite progress in decreasing global inequalities, least developed countries, landlocked

developing countries and small island developing States needed further assistance to increase their zero tariff exports. Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development was also important to least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. The drop in ODA exacerbated the situation and made bilateral flows imperative to achievement of the Goals. Private investment was not completely aligned with the Goals and greater partnerships were needed to reach trade targets by 2030, especially for least developed countries. Afghanistan called on the international community to follow through on its commitments and enhance collective efforts in that regard. Strengthening infrastructure was vital to the development of landlocked developing countries and would facilitate their integration into the global economy. Her delegation supported the revitalization of the work of the Committee and stood ready to work with other Member States to reduce duplication and overlaps among United Nations entities to make the Committee more fit for purpose.

56. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) said that his country had already made significant progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the areas of combating poverty, access to public services, infrastructure and strengthening rights and freedoms. That progress had been achieved thanks to large-scale economic, social, institutional and regulatory reform, the launch of strategies and policies based on a participatory approach to sustainable development, and a number of national development programmes. Given his country's priorities and the efforts of the United Nations for environmental protection and sustainable development, Morocco would submit a draft resolution on strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development. The draft resolution was aimed at strengthening cooperation in the economic, environmental and social management of coastal areas and he encouraged Member States to support that initiative. Furthermore, the development model needed to be updated. Sustainable development required greater investment in the human element to combat social inequality and spatial disparity. In that regard, a special commission had been established in his country to update the Moroccan development model and mobilize the nation.

57. Strong multilateral action was needed to combat climate change, emancipate women and young people and maintain international peace. International cooperation, public-private partnerships, South-South and triangular cooperation were essential tools for inclusive and accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. South-South

cooperation was a key pillar of the foreign policy of Morocco, with a particular focus on Africa. In that regard, the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was a significant step for the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

58. The Climate Action Summit 2019 had confirmed that Africa needed specific attention and targeted assistance, since it was particularly affected by climate change, but its young people had the capacity and will to produce solutions that were adapted to their continent. Since financing was a crucial issue in that regard, the United Nations should create a fund to support the achievement of the Goals in Africa, encourage climate action and promote sustainable agriculture and the transition to renewable energy. Food security was a major challenge globally, and particularly in Africa. It was a priority area for the South-South cooperation activities of Morocco.

59. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that the science indicated that any temperature rise above 1.5 degrees Celsius would lead to catastrophic and irreversible damage to the ecosystem that supported humankind. Like other developing countries, Mongolia had contributed the least to global warming, but had experienced an increase in average annual temperature that was three times higher than the average global increase. As a result, more than 70 per cent of its territory had been affected by desertification and land degradation, the area covered by permafrost had shrunk and waterways had dried up. Climate change was already affecting livelihoods and the economy.

60. Mongolia would fulfil its intended nationally determined contribution alongside the development of ambitious environmental legislation and policies. The share of renewable energy resources in the country's energy mix would be increased and a multilateral institution established for electricity grid connections. Work to support economic diversification away from extractive industries included supporting the private sector, encouraging partnerships and providing opportunities for women.

61. In-depth analysis was needed to identify the constraints and challenges for landlocked developing countries and actions to overcome them. The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries engaged on those issues by providing evidence-based advisory services, conducting research and organizing workshops. A workshop on best practices in corridor development and management for the benefit

of landlocked developing countries and transit countries would be held in Mongolia in October 2019.

62. *Ms. Angelova (Bulgaria), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

63. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia) said that the speed of global development and progress in a number of sectors lent momentum to the Committee's work. The resolutions that were being implemented would set the future of the world's children. The 2030 Agenda was evidence of the common will to move forward together to eradicate poverty and allow all persons to live a healthy life in dignity and enjoy their economic and social rights and freedoms. Obstacles should be overcome to ensure that States could benefit from their right to development.

64. His country had made significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, which had been integrated into national policy through its Vision 2030. The aim of Vision 2030 was to make Saudi Arabia a strong and prosperous State that welcomed all. His country was particularly open to the private sector and was working to strengthen its economy, create jobs and end unemployment. The Saudi Stock Exchange and efficient public expenditure would contribute to that plan, alongside work to diversify the economy, including by opening a national centre to improve the economy's competitiveness.

65. **Ms. Quiel Murcia** (Panama) said that the issues under consideration by the Committee would benefit from the commitment and ambition expressed during the General Assembly, in order to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. The first review cycle of the 2030 Agenda had shown that the main focus should be on the eradication of poverty, which together with the achievement of sustainable development would require significant transformation at all levels of society. Policy integration and the strengthening of national institutions were needed in order to bolster multilateralism and achieve common goals, particularly in a global context where multilateralism was being weakened. Joint endeavours were being abandoned in favour of individual action as a way of overcoming contemporary challenges.

66. Ensuring quality education was a challenge for many countries, especially developing countries, but could be tackled through technological change that benefited all. Cooperation was vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, and to providing high quality education. In the light of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, efforts to combat climate change should be boosted and

prioritized. Panama attached the utmost importance to climate action and was planning to integrate the fight against climate change in its Constitution. The commitments made at the Climate Action Summit 2019 must be upheld, particularly those made to the most vulnerable countries, and the international community must answer the call for action from young people.

67. Financing for development was the cornerstone of attaining the Goals, and it was crucial to link work under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to that under the 2030 Agenda. Political commitment and robust action were needed to mobilize domestic resources for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Areas of focus should include international cooperation, international financial transparency, science and technology and their transfer, innovation and capacity-building. It should be acknowledged that countries entering the group of middle-income countries faced major challenges and needed a financial framework with a range of stakeholders and financing instruments.

68. A key lesson from the first review cycle of the 2030 Agenda was that more comprehensive and integrated measurements and data were needed. Measurement should go beyond simple income thresholds and consider the multidimensional nature of poverty and the structural shortcomings that primarily affected developing countries. The multilateral trade system should be universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable, and should function within the framework of WTO. Her delegation also supported the significant liberalization of trade.

69. The United Nations development system had pursued its mandate for reform to ensure that it was more coherent and delivered results at the country level. Countries should work to combine their efforts in order to achieve sustainable development. Panama, as a regional hub for Latin American and the Caribbean, stood ready to contribute to sustainable development at the regional level by acting as a regional bridge and platform for the exchange of knowledge and good practices for regional funds and programmes.

70. **Mr. Al-kuwari** (Qatar) said that cooperation and an effective international response were needed to combat climate change, which was an obstacle to economic and social development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Qatar played an active role in international work on climate action, including through its joint work on the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition and its contribution to help small island developing States and least developed countries deal with the repercussions of climate change. His

country took international agreements on climate change seriously and would work with the international community to realize the Paris Agreement.

71. International efforts were a tool for economic development and the creation of an enabling environment and multilateral trading system that was open, inclusive, non-discriminatory and fair. The information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/74/221) would help to enhance trade by taking all aspects into consideration, including the eradication of poverty, the creation of jobs and environmental sustainability. Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require a special focus on least developed countries and countries in conflict situations. All vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities, should be provided with the necessary skills and knowledge. Inclusive, quality education was an important enabling tool to achieve progress on all the Sustainable Development Goals.

72. Sustainable development was an important issue for Qatar, as shown in its National Vision 2030, which included the objective of establishing a sustainable development framework. The Goals and their monitoring and evaluation were being integrated into the national strategic plan and the voluntary national review had been presented at the high-level political forum. As a leader in humanitarian relief, Qatar had financed projects in more than 70 countries in 2018 and had announced multi-year unearmarked funding of \$500 million to support United Nations agencies, including a multi-year contribution to the United Nations development system accelerator labs to accelerate achievement of the Goals. In 2021, as part of the commitment to working with partners and achieving lasting development in least developed countries, Qatar would host the Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

73. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland) said that, last year, his country had expressed concern at the increasing polarization of debates and had insisted on the importance of seeking consensus, particularly within a Committee that sought to implement a shared, global agenda. His delegation called on Member States to seek common, consensus-based solutions to the challenges they faced. Switzerland would oppose any attempt to provoke disagreement on issues that were not directly linked to the work of the Committee.

74. Compromise and consensus took time and resources – the Committee needed revitalization. Too much time was spent on obsolete resolutions that did not reflect the desired dynamic of the United Nations or the

contemporary concerns of citizens. Certain resolutions should be addressed on a biennial or triennial basis, or even removed from the agenda, in order to improve efficiency and allow the emergence of new, contemporary topics. Member States could not demand ambitious reform from the Secretary-General without engaging in reform themselves.

75. Coherent reform was particularly important in view of the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, for which an in-depth analysis was needed of the progress made and remaining challenges. Given that the reforms launched by the Secretary-General were aimed at boosting the effectiveness of development activities in the field, Switzerland had provided financial support for the new resident coordinator system. Only an effective and innovative United Nations would be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

76. While it was encouraging that the 2030 Agenda was becoming part of the DNA of the United Nations, accelerated action was needed to attain the Goals in the remaining time. The review process of the high-level political forum must remain an effective accountability framework and key mechanism for evaluating and accelerating progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

77. In the face of urgent global challenges, such as poverty, inequality and climate change, the achievement of the Goals must be accelerated. Digitization offered undeniable opportunities to boost sustainable development; it could simplify processes and increase transparency. It raised a lot of questions, but also provided many answers and was transforming the world and the way people lived and worked. The report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation underlined the importance of ensuring an inclusive and interdependent digital world, with a new architecture and appropriate governance. Digital cooperation agreements were needed to capitalize on the potential of new technologies under the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the recommendations of the High-level Panel should be implemented. Good choices on digitalization would allow for promising synergies in a number of areas discussed by the Committee.

78. As emphasized in the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018*, it was not possible to progress towards achieving the Goals without knowing the exact current situation. Quality data and statistics played a crucial role in that regard, since they would show the state of progress and indicate the required additional efforts. Innovative tools and technology were needed to collect more up-to-date and relevant statistics. In that

connection, Switzerland would host the United Nations World Data Forum in 2020.

79. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the exceptional circumstances in his country made the implementation of sustainable development a national priority that required enhanced cooperation with the United Nations. The principles important to making the work of the Committee effective and relevant were the non-politicization of development work, predictable and sustainable funding for development, and enhanced transparency and follow-up with national Governments.

80. Despite the difficult circumstances, his Government had prepared its first national report on sustainable development in 2019 and would submit its first voluntary national review in 2020. Those reviews would boost cooperation between his Government, the United Nations and the development system through development plans and projects that met the aspirations of the Syrian people and addressed the special circumstances caused by ongoing terrorism and the economic blockade. A particular challenge was creating the conditions for displaced persons and refugees to return home. The cooperation of the United Nations and political will on the part of the international community would be needed to prevent certain Governments from hindering reconstruction and rehabilitation.

81. Since development strategies were based on the empowerment of societies and the exercise of their right to development, the United Nations should take a position against unilateral coercive measures in order to bring them to an immediate end. Such measures had caused a slowdown in the Syrian economy, a decline in the human development index and had increased poverty and food insecurity.

82. The ability of peoples living under foreign occupation to achieve sustainable development was limited. In that regard, Israeli occupation continued to exploit, endanger and loot natural resources in the occupied Syrian Golan. General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) on permanent sovereignty over natural resources was particularly important in that regard.

83. **Ms. Udida** (Nigeria) said that the Committee must work together in a collaborative manner to succeed in the task of protecting the planet and ensuring that no one was left behind. The Committee should focus on realizing the ambitious visions of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. That would require an atmosphere appropriate to sustained strategic discussion on accelerating efforts to achieve the goals and targets in those and other internationally agreed development documents, particularly the actions to make progress on the

Sustainable Development Goals. Nigeria supported all efforts to accelerate the means of implementation; remaining faithful to commitments contained in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly would require strengthening the means of implementation across all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

84. In the light of the continued emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, her Government had made efforts to diversify its revenue base and was mainstreaming funding for development related to the Goals in its budgetary mechanism. Strategic targets had been introduced for sectors and programmes that had a substantial impact on job creation, poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods. To further the call for targeted investment and private sector involvement in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the Group of 77 and China would table a draft text on promoting investment for sustainable development, which all Member States should support.

85. Illicit financial flows distorted countries' growth and development and eliminated resources that would otherwise be used for poverty alleviation and investment. Greater attention should be devoted to discussing the steps to dismantle safe havens for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows. In that context, her delegation would seek Member States' commitment to updating General Assembly resolution [72/207](#) on the promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development. The significant impact of the asymmetric global environment for the efforts of developing and least developed countries to implement the 2030 Agenda was concerning. The Committee should pay greater attention to macroeconomic difficulties, including low and fluctuating commodity prices, volatile capital flows, disaster risks and climate-induced humanitarian crises.

86. More efforts were needed to mitigate the declining health of the planet. In that regard, her delegation welcomed the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the renewed commitments of several countries to boost their national climate action plans and the plans of business leaders to align their business activities with the goals and targets of the Paris Agreement that were announced during the Summit. The Committee should build on that momentum to encourage all countries, especially the most industrialized ones, to step up their commitment to addressing climate change and its associated challenges.

87. Rapid growth in information and communications technology should be used to assist countries and

communities to monitor, mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change, with no country left behind. Sufficient time should also be spent discussing how to close the digital divide within and among countries.

88. **Ms. Orteiz** (Honduras) said that her country was committed to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda and other complementary multilateral agreements. To tackle issues of global importance, such as the global economy, the multilateral system and the eradication of poverty, the challenges faced by developing countries and middle-income countries should be taken into account through substantive discussions to enhance implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The effects on developing countries of problems such as climate change, poverty and hunger and expedited urbanization called for a move towards sustainable and resilient societies. That would require responsible management of finite natural resources and access to basic services, which were the cornerstone of sustainable development.

89. Continued progress was needed towards a trade system based on universal standards that was open, non-discriminatory and equitable. The value of integrating various forms of economies and ensuring their complementarity was therefore recognized, and the use of public-private partnerships and participation of all stakeholders in the development of all countries should be championed. Reduced access to concessional funding was a cause of particular concern as middle-income countries were increasingly unable to access affordable financing.

90. The multidimensional nature of poverty stood in contrast to the measurement of poverty, which only considered income and gross domestic product. The failure to consider social and economic complexities concealed countries' multifaceted development efforts, which made it hard to allocate development resources appropriately and rendered ODA increasingly ineffective. The measurement of poverty should move away from simple income indicators towards multidimensional indicators that would better identify levels of development and where to channel resources. Slow development and increased income inequality within countries should be discussed in order to pre-empt its social and economic consequences and design policies to respond to the challenges it raised.

91. In Honduras, small businesses had been integrated into the formal economy through access to concessional loans, while a social protection programme had benefited 4 million persons in five years. The empowerment of women and girls was an area that

required greater attention to ensure gender equality and the enjoyment of rights and opportunities.

92. **Mr. Gnecco Daza** (Colombia) said that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was the crux of his country's development strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals had been integrated in the national development plan in order for Colombia to become a more prosperous and equal nation. Monetary and multidimensional poverty was being reduced to ensure that opportunities could be provided to all, and barriers to accessing basic services were being lifted for the most vulnerable. His Government was seeking to provide an enabling and innovative business environment that provided unprecedented opportunities for investors.

93. Columbia was committed to protecting biodiversity, supporting renewable energy and fighting illegal mining and climate change. Since climate change was the greatest threat to humankind and the planet, climate action was a priority. His delegation hoped to make progress on environmental goals at twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2020, Columbia would host the third session of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

94. His delegation supported the reform of the United Nations development system advocated by the Secretary-General. Committed implementation of that reform by all Members States and United Nations agencies would be needed for the Organization to become an ideal partner in building national and local capacity and working to achieve common goals.

95. Financial mechanisms were crucial to driving achievement of the Goals and the mobilization of resources at the international level was vital to honouring the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. South-South and triangular cooperation should also be championed in the interests of achieving the 2030 Agenda. Columbia therefore appealed for the strengthening of initiatives already in place so that they could better contribute to countries' sustainable development efforts.

96. **Mr. Mwanza** (Zambia) said that, while progress had been made on global poverty reduction, the world was not on track to achieve the overarching goal of eradicating poverty by 2030. The milestones reached and commitments made at the high-level political forum, the high-level dialogue on financing for development and the Climate Action Summit 2019 were most welcome. The political declaration adopted at the

high-level political forum and accelerated initiatives and commitments should propel further action to lift people out of poverty.

97. His country had recorded increased economic growth in 2018, despite adverse weather conditions that had caused drought and a subsequent deficit in the power supply, and economic growth was expected to remain positive in 2019. His Government was promoting international trade and investment, creating jobs and improving infrastructure in the transport, energy and information and communications sectors. The science policy interface and enhanced global support mechanisms for science, technology and innovation should therefore be strengthened to improve the economy's productive capacity.

98. His Government was also taking action on climate change, including in the areas of early warning systems, adaptation and mitigation. Access to weather-related information, climate risk assessments and climate information services were being strengthened. With regard to financing for development, the measures taken included restraining public expenditure, curbing debt accumulation, using private-public partnerships and introducing reforms to mitigate the risk of debt distress. Immediate policy action was needed that included targeted debt relief initiatives linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and the scaling up of ODA for the Goals, especially for developing countries in vulnerable situations. The negative impact on developing countries of illicit financial flows was a cause of concern. The increased scope and complexity of such flows had led to Zambia, like other countries, losing revenue through mechanisms such as currency exchanges, front businesses and inadequate capacities to tax the fast-growing digital economy.

99. A national baseline report had been developed to monitor progress on the Goals. The generation of statistical data would be prioritized to help in that monitoring effort. As the implementation of the Goals progressed, support should be provided for regional and subregional efforts to promote lessons learned and good practices, especially among developing countries.

100. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America of America) said that the work of the Committee should reflect the vision of reform set out by the Secretary-General. Last year, his delegation had called for the Committee to move its focus from stale debates informed by long-discredited ideologies to meaningful dialogue on the true drivers of sustainable development: the rule of law, human rights and citizen-responsive governance based on transparency, accountability and the participation of civil society. A number of annual

agenda items did not require yearly reporting or resolutions and should be negotiated on a biennial or triennial basis. The same should apply to the consideration of outdated, irrelevant, ineffective and, in some cases, redundant proposals, if the Committee lacked the political will to discontinue them. The Bureau should continue to enforce best practices with regard to the deadlines for submissions and the conclusion of negotiations, in order to finish the Committee's work on time and limit negotiations to normal business hours.

101. The United States of America remained committed to international development, as enshrined in its national security strategy, and was the largest provider of ODA. However, ODA was dwarfed by private capital, domestic resources, philanthropy, remittances and other financial flows and enhanced commerce and investment, all of which could increase developing countries' self-reliance. Investments by the United States in developing countries did not displace the private sector or subsidize projects that should find their own financing, and upheld environmental, social and workers' rights. The United States International Development Finance Corporation would soon be launched to facilitate the participation of private sector capital in the economic development of emerging markets.

102. Women's human rights and economic empowerment would continue to be championed by his country, including through the launch in 2019 of the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, which targeted women's economic participation. The Initiative was intended to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025 and included the establishment of a new fund for international development. Economically empowered women reinvested in their families and communities, thereby multiplying economic growth. Enabling environments based on transparency, predictability, human and labour rights, the rule of law and prevention of corruption contributed to development and helped Governments to mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign investment and participate in the international financial and trading systems. It also protected countries from the impact of external events. External donor support remained important however, particularly since policy and regulatory reforms often required resources, training, technical expertise and explanations of best practice. His Government would therefore continue to work with other Governments, civil society and the private sector in countries in need.

103. Fostering economic prosperity was a worthy goal for the Committee. His country would continue to uphold United Nations norms and standards, including by pushing back against politicized language and ill-defined concepts, championed by individual Member States, that

did not belong in resolutions. In the interests of sustainable development, the United States of America sought fair and reciprocal trade, open investment environments, transparent agreements between nations and improved connectivity. The United Nations must respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations and must not involve itself in processes in other forums, including WTO. General Assembly or Economic and Social Council resolutions on such issues would not be considered binding, including calls to undermine incentives for innovation, such as technology transfer that was not both voluntary and on mutually agreed terms.

104. The use in recent years of United Nations resolutions to promote the foreign policy priorities of one Member State was a worrying trend that compromised the transparency, neutrality and legitimacy of the system. Any such attempts would be vigorously opposed by his delegation and he invited other Member States to join in that effort.

105. **Ms. Siblini** (Lebanon) said that the Committee continued to be an important platform to exchange views and ideas on the challenges of implementation and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, and to agree on the most effective approaches to those challenges at the global, regional and country levels. The national process for the Sustainable Development Goals was aimed at tailoring the global agenda to national needs, challenges and resources; reporting on progress; advocating the effective engagement and ownership of stakeholders; and taking a bottom-up, inclusive and whole-of-government approach.

106. The Lebanese diaspora was a catalyst for development and contributed to the Lebanese economy. A number of challenges remained, however, and the national development agenda would need to be financed through highly concessional lending and grants, and by mobilizing private sector resources. That financing would be used to upgrade infrastructure that was overstretched due to the Syrian crisis, which had compounded the economic, social, environmental and security challenges faced by her country.

107. The marine oil spill of July 2006, caused by the destruction of oil storage tanks by Israel, continued to impact human health, economic growth and efforts for a healthy environment. Her delegation sought the support of the Committee to, once again, adopt the draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores, which requested Israel to assume responsibility for providing prompt and adequate compensation to Lebanon for the costs of repairing the ensuing environmental damage.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.