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Chair: Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay)

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In the absence of Mr. Logar (Slovenia), Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (continued)

1. **Mr. González Franco** (Paraguay) said that the seventieth session of the General Assembly was of particular importance for Paraguay. No one should be left behind. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 all posed new challenges and must be fully implemented. Efforts to eliminate hunger and poverty and to achieve sustainable development must take particular account of the needs of landlocked developing countries and their challenges.

2. **Mr. Plasai** (Thailand) said that since people and communities held the key to implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, they must be equipped with the necessary skills and resources, and immunity to internal and external shocks must be fostered. Thailand's eleventh national economic and social development plan aimed to tackle inequality and drew inspiration from the King's sufficiency economy philosophy, which emphasized reasonableness, moderation and building communities' resilience to ensure a balanced way of life, with full respect for the environment.

3. Translating the Sustainable Development Goals into action would be a challenging task requiring concerted global efforts and multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially over the next few years. The uncompleted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) must be integrated into those efforts. People and communities at all levels and in all sectors must fully realize and embrace the values of the new agenda in every decision in their daily lives. To that end, Thailand had established a national sustainable development committee that would provide outreach on the Sustainable Development Goals to all sectors of society and also seamlessly integrate those Goals into national policies and plans.

4. Empowering people and communities to implement the 2030 Agenda would involve providing access to financial resources to create a strong

foundation for robust economic growth and poverty eradication. The Government of Thailand offered community investment loans, village funds and a cooperative system to assist local small and medium-sized enterprises with job creation and income generation. By providing equitable access to effective social protection floors, the full benefits could be obtained from economic opportunities without risking exposure to economic hardship.

5. For that reason, his Government had prioritized investment in health, education and improved social protection, especially for vulnerable groups. The universal health coverage scheme initiated in 2001 provided access to adequate health care for 99.9 per cent of the population.

6. It was important to build resilience so that communities were capable of adapting and building back better following disasters. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda could be done through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Thailand had been among the first to integrate elements from the Sendai Framework into its national disaster prevention and mitigation plan for implementation at the local and national levels.

7. Software and hardware connectivity must be enhanced throughout the region to multiply the effects of economic, social and environmental development. Connectivity helped eliminate bottlenecks and missing links to allow freer movement of goods, services and people and to attract investment, thereby bridging development gaps between countries.

8. Thailand had been advocating for greater connectivity in all forms within and beyond the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in particular through the development of economic corridors and transport networks, under various subregional cooperation schemes. Thailand was also developing special economic zones along its borders to supplement those schemes. That should contribute towards inclusive and region-wide economic and industrial development, strengthening the regional supply chain and, in turn, attracting investment into the region.

9. Thailand firmly believed that genuine global partnership through North-South cooperation must be complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation. As an emerging donor country, Thailand had provided more than \$90 million in technical and

financial systems to its neighbours, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other developing nations. Areas of cooperation included health care, education, rural development, sustainable agriculture and the sufficiency economy philosophy. The Thailand-Pacific Island Countries Forum initiative aimed to foster development cooperation in key priority areas for small island developing States. Under that initiative, the Thailand-Pacific Action Plan had been launched as a framework for the future direction of that comprehensive partnership.

10. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that the Sustainable Development Goal indicators to be presented by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016 should be derived from the agreed Goals and targets and should in no way run counter to them or use technical terms to surreptitiously create other Goals. The global indicators should not prevent interested States from devising their own specific indicators appropriate to national priorities.

11. As poverty eradication was the ultimate objective of the 2030 Agenda, economic transformation of the countries of the South should receive priority. Jobs, energy, industrialization and economic diversification must be at the heart of the agenda, especially for development in Africa, which should be the focus of particular attention.

12. The success of the new agenda would depend on essential elements, such as respect for State sovereignty, alignment with national priorities, reform of world economic governance, mobilization of means of implementation and a successful conclusion to the Doha Round that recognized development as a reality.

13. Cameroon had resolutely stepped up measures to move towards a high-performance economy characterized by sustained and sustainable growth that would create jobs based on reliable drivers of growth, such as energy, roads, telecommunications and modern agriculture. Implementation of major structural projects involving productive sectors and infrastructure was crucial to improved living standards.

14. With support from development partners, the Head of State was currently overseeing many social inclusion programmes and an increase in structural investments. A crisis prevention and response framework was operational, promoting shared prosperity and preparations to resist and mitigate

external and internal shocks, whether economic, social or environmental in nature.

15. There was emphasis on the private sector through measures to stimulate private investment and ongoing public-private dialogue. The business climate was being improved and favourable conditions for foreign direct investment had been put in place. There were five-year tax exemptions for new businesses and support for public-private partnerships, particularly in the water and electricity sectors. Roads represented another such opportunity.

16. Despite terrorist acts by Boko Haram, poverty reduction and economic growth efforts in Cameroon had led to an increase in the growth rate from 5.9 per cent in 2014 to over 6 per cent in 2015. Partners should continue their support to stem the economic damage resulting from the war against Boko Haram. The Government was working to aid youth and women by addressing vulnerability through education, work and revenue-producing activities, and was determined to achieve structural transformation that would lead to added value, improved living conditions and job creation through industrialization.

17. **Mr. Rishchynski** (Canada) said that the Second Committee's current debate was taking place against a backdrop of increasing instability and uncertainty, with the issues of extreme poverty and inequality permeating every major international discussion. However, it was also a moment of optimism, given the recent adoption of two seminal guiding documents: the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

18. Canada welcomed the adoption of those outcome documents as critical milestones in collective efforts to eliminate poverty on a global scale and promote fundamental freedoms as the building blocks of sustainable development. The successful achievement of those outcomes was due in large part to the unprecedented participation of civil society organizations and the private sector. Canada looked forward to the continued active involvement of a broad range of stakeholders during the implementation phase.

19. Canada looked forward to playing its part in ensuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and welcomed the inclusion in the new agenda of the issues of maternal, newborn and child health. The Prime Minister of Canada had said that despite international efforts and progress made, poor nutrition and preventable diseases continued to

claim the lives of unacceptably high numbers of women, children and newborns. Canada would help to ensure that the world continued to focus on those critical issues.

20. Canada's work in maternal, newborn and child health had shown the importance of accountability. Results were best when there were clear indicators, progress was monitored, gaps identified and approaches adjusted. Partners should ensure that the underpinnings of accountability were an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and should regularly monitor progress to determine what was effective. All partners must be held accountable for implementing their part of the programme.

21. How to finance the Sustainable Development Goals was a critical question. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda had made clear that it was necessary to draw on the full range of available resources to achieve them. While official development assistance (ODA) would remain important, especially for the least developed countries, current and projected levels fell far short of the trillions of dollars that would be required. In order to fill the gap, domestic resource mobilization must be strengthened and new ways found to blend financing from donors, foundations, the private sector and other sources.

22. The Committee's current session provided an important opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue on its strengthening, so that it could serve as an integral component of the new agenda's implementation. Canada was eager to explore ways of ensuring that the Committee's work was fit for purpose in order to support and promote collective objectives, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

23. Moreover, it was important to bear in mind that the Committee did not operate in isolation, but was part of a larger United Nations architecture. With regard to implementation, it would be crucial to consider the outcomes of a range of broader discussions and mechanisms, such as the dialogue on the longer-term position of the United Nations development system in the Economic and Social Council and the framework to ensure proper follow-up and review of the agenda through the high-level political forum on sustainable development. That would ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of efforts.

24. **Ms. Ordoñez Solano** (Honduras) said that the destruction caused by climate change was a major concern in Honduras, which was now experiencing its most serious drought since the mid-twentieth century, as well as a crisis caused by the bark beetle. The latter had resulted in the loss of 112,000 hectares of forest, which represented 7 per cent of the total forested area in Honduras.

25. The planet was paying the price for climate change and the Second Committee must make the Sustainable Development Goals viable, leading to a more sustainable way of life. Honduras was preparing to participate in the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. In that context, she stressed that everyone had common but differentiated responsibilities with regard to the origins of climate change and the solutions to it. Those who bore the most responsibility for the crisis had the greatest responsibility to address it. Furthermore, local authorities should be involved, through policies that responded to the environmental realities and needs of the regions. There was great natural diversity in Honduras, leading to a range of issues that varied from one locale to another.

26. Financing for development contributed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. As the 2030 Agenda represented an economic challenge, public-private partnerships were important. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognized that such partnerships were essential for mobilizing human and financial resources, as well as technical and technological capacity and knowledge. The participation of all stakeholders, including the business community, was therefore sought on means of implementation of the Goals, on the global development partnership and on follow-up and assessment.

27. Honduras also believed that complementary actions by the State and the private sector could play a key role in conflict reduction, challenging differences through institutional pathways and building peace and stability. Much more was possible through such actions than separately or through overlapping or conflicting proposals.

28. Honduras strongly supported target 17.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals on improving regional

and international North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, particularly in the field of science, technology and innovation and access thereto. Its purpose would be to increase knowledge exchange, to improve coordination between existing mechanisms, especially within the United Nations, and to promote environmentally friendly technologies and their transfer and dissemination to developing countries under favourable conditions, including concessionary and preferential conditions, by mutual agreement.

29. Poverty was a multidimensional and complex phenomenon that must be approached using various measures and from various angles. Honduras had therefore developed a multidimensional poverty index that was a more comprehensive and effective method for measuring basic unmet needs and income levels, as well as sociocultural factors that affected quality of life. Adequate measurement of poverty would promote more effective policies and social programmes.

30. **Mr. Conte** (Guinea) said that the Sustainable Development Goals aimed to achieve what the MDGs had not, including ensuring human rights for all and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. They embodied the international community's vision and its desire to implement a programme to eradicate poverty, share prosperity, guarantee peace and protect the planet. The 2030 Agenda would address inequalities and ensure that development left no one behind. Recognizing the importance of the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities was one way of achieving that commitment, and doing so took into account the inequalities of the new agenda. Poverty could be overcome if appropriate resources were mobilized.

31. In negotiating the MDGs, the international community had not planned for means of implementation. That had been one of the failures of that agenda. The global partnership and the means of implementation, which had been identified in each target and in the 17 new Goals, were therefore necessary for the success of the new agenda.

32. While the MDGs had represented an essential development framework that had led to important progress in certain areas, such progress had been uneven, especially in Africa, the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States. Some of the MDGs had

not been achieved, including those related to maternal, neonatal, child and reproductive health.

33. Prior to the Ebola outbreak in 2014, MDG results had been very encouraging, with many groups lifted out of extreme poverty, primary school enrolment greatly increased, more women and girls participating in public life and more people enjoying improved sanitary conditions. However, since then the Ebola outbreak had become the focus of all efforts by the Government of Guinea and its technical and financial partners. The need for investment in the affected areas had thus increased. The impact of the epidemic was broadly apparent, with no development sector spared.

34. The Government of Guinea strongly supported the implementation of the new agenda in its entirety, with particular emphasis on Goals 1, 8 and 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

35. In the agreement to be concluded at the Paris Climate Change Conference, reference should be made to the difficulties of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, particularly least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States.

36. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan) said that, with the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, 2015 was shaping up as a unique year. The Paris Climate Change Conference was also an important forthcoming event. Tremendous efforts and high ambitions were vested in those conferences. Collective will and unwavering determination had led to remarkable outcomes. The common goal of those efforts was to eradicate poverty and hunger in all their forms and to save the planet.

37. As the 2030 Agenda addressed in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development, it made sense to approach deliberations on implementation of the agenda by taking into account the guidance and commitments provided by Heads of State and Government during the recent summit. The role of the United Nations system, in particular the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum, would be crucial to the follow-up and realization of the agenda.

38. The agenda recognized the special needs and challenges of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries affected by conflict. Afghanistan was a least developed country, a landlocked developing country and a country affected by conflict, and was a prime target of international terrorism and the resultant conflict. It combated terrorism on a daily basis on behalf of the international community and paid a high price in both blood and resources to ensure peace and stability in the country, the region and the world. Given that peace and security were fundamental for achieving sustainable development and economic growth, Afghanistan placed great importance on Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which addressed building peaceful and inclusive societies.

39. Financing for development was crucial to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Meeting the commitments made at the third International Conference on Financing for Development was also vital. As a country highly dependent on aid, Afghanistan recognized the great importance of ODA in supporting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and economic growth.

40. South-South cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation, was essential for developing countries as they endeavoured to attain sustainable development. The added value of regional cooperation could not be stressed enough. A revitalized global partnership was also essential for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

41. Technology was key to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. The follow-up and review mechanism was also crucial to implementing the new agenda, which could not be achieved without accurate data. In that regard, the outcome of the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission on developing global indicators in March 2016 would be significant.

42. Vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters could not be ignored. In that regard, the Paris Climate Change Conference should lead to a comprehensive and legally binding agreement.

43. Some of the development gains of the past 14 years lacked consolidation, continuity and sustainability. While the poverty rate had remained constant at around 36 per cent, there had been considerable improvement in primary education,

gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as in child and maternal mortality rates.

44. Afghanistan would remain committed to developing strategies and policies to integrate its national development agenda into the 2030 Agenda. Although Afghanistan had begun to pursue the MDGs nearly half a decade later than other Member States, extending its deadline to 2020, it remained committed to achieving those outstanding Goals.

45. **Mr. Castro Cordoba** (Costa Rica) said that the recently adopted post-2015 agenda would redirect the primary functions of the United Nations towards development that was more just, inclusive, universal and sustainable. Implementation was a massive task that was set to begin in early 2016 and would be marked by strengthened international cooperation, enabling developing countries to meet their commitments. Means of implementation must be characterized by solidarity and inclusiveness, guaranteeing that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was appropriately implemented, especially the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. That would require utter transparency and accountability from all stakeholders.

46. Decisions were needed on how implementation would modify the Second Committee's work. Such decisions should be based on honest, transparent and strategic reflection, changes within the United Nations system should be based on the principles of efficiency and comprehensiveness, and discussions on the longer-term position of the United Nations development system and the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council should serve to inject greater fairness and create synergies that would facilitate the work of the high-level political forum.

47. In modifying the Committee's working methods, it would be necessary to consider not only the Committee's relevant resolutions but also such outcomes as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the action plans of the various groups of countries, the Sendai Framework and the agreement to be reached at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

48. Progress in implementation was possible only with appropriate consideration of the needs of all Member States, especially those with significant vulnerabilities and specific challenges such as middle-income countries, the largest group of Member States with the greatest number of poor people and vulnerable groups. However, there was no comprehensive strategy within

the United Nations focusing on the cooperation needs of middle-income countries.

49. There was thus a need to create an action plan that went beyond merely recognizing the needs of middle-income countries that were also landlocked developing countries or small island developing States. That idea had been repeated by many delegations during the general debate, and Costa Rica believed that there would be progress on such an action plan during the current year. There was also a need to address challenges in the areas of infrastructure, sovereign debt, trade, financing for development, energy and strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation, based on a sustainable and comprehensive vision. No country should be left behind.

50. **Ms. Al Otaibi** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country welcomed the 2030 Agenda. Middle-sized and small countries should be involved, as they had an important role to play in cultivating peace, prosperity and development. Genuine partnerships should be set up to help African countries and landlocked developing countries reach their goals.

51. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda called for a global partnership and financing for development that would not be limited to ODA. Other sources of financing must be considered, including through the private sector, civil society and trust funds, in order to encourage innovative approaches in developing countries.

52. The United Arab Emirates had made enormous progress in information and communications technologies (ICTs) and, together with Lithuania, had organized a conference on the information society.

53. The United Arab Emirates attached particular importance to the empowerment of women and their economic and political participation. Indicators showed that the country was one of the more highly ranked in that regard. It had adopted several laws to ensure the presence of women on the governing boards of corporations. There was a need for gender equality, and the role of women as partners in the development process was very important.

54. More sustainable models were needed to respond to climate change, including solar energy. The question of increasing the use of clean energy was important and deserved further discussion. She hoped for a successful outcome to the Paris Climate Change

Conference that would include ways of financing climate change projects.

55. Welcoming the decision to have the Palestinian flag fly at the United Nations alongside those of Member States, her country supported the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to their natural resources, to self-determination and to their own State with Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The United Nations had provided assistance to the Palestinian people to implement the sustainable development agenda.

56. **Ms. Byaje** (Rwanda) said that it was imperative to recognize that the new development agenda would be achieved individually and collectively by drawing on lessons learned and avoiding past mistakes. While the MDGs had addressed high poverty rates and poor human development outcomes, there had been limited progress in poverty reduction. However, notable advancements had been seen in primary school enrolment, gender parity at the lower levels of education, women's democratic participation, and in the health-related MDGs.

57. Nevertheless, achieving the new transformative development agenda would require a more holistic approach, encompassing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. She therefore welcomed the fact that the new agenda took into account the challenges facing countries with special needs and their reliance on ODA commitments from development partners to leverage financial resources and complement national efforts.

58. The MDG agenda had been adopted when the country, completely shattered, was still facing a situation of chaos and mayhem. Rwanda had now fully met all of the MDGs and their targets, and so was equipped to tackle new challenges. To ensure a smooth transition, her Government would work to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development plan. Integrating the new Goals would enable citizens to take ownership of them. To that end, strengthened capacity-building had already been initiated and improved data collection was under consideration, whereby all actors would be engaged in tracking progress and building partnerships with stakeholders.

59. Certain key lessons would continue to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. First,

there was an imperative to respond to the aspirations of the people and ensure that they were in the driver's seat during implementation of the new agenda, for better accountability and transparency. Second, there must be a renewed commitment to gender equality, youth participation and inclusion of the most vulnerable. Third, there was a need to tackle infrastructure and energy gaps and to establish inclusive, job-rich, sustainable industrialization while fostering regional integration.

60. All actors must realize that adequate financing and means of implementation of the new agenda and other enablers, such as the use of technology and science, especially Internet broadband, were crucial to achieving maximum impact.

61. An effective launch and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be possible only if everyone realized that it would not be business as usual. The new approach would require a genuine shift in mindsets as well as a complete behavioural change and adaptation to changing realities. That would involve moving towards inclusive participation and collaboration among all stakeholders, including Governments, non-State actors, individuals and institutions, to eradicate poverty in all its forms. The private sector would play a critical role in implementing the new agenda.

62. **Mr. Mamani Paco** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the current period was marked by wars and capitalist and humanitarian crises in developed and developing countries alike, of which the most alarming was the climate change crisis. All those crises were killing Mother Earth, known in Western countries as Planet Earth. It was clear that human beings would be unable to live without Mother Earth, and equally clear that Mother Earth would be better off without human beings.

63. His country's vision for development, which was based on its indigenous peoples' ideas of living well, was profoundly different from the Western concept of living better through competition. Living well meant living in solidarity and complementarity, not only with humans but also with Mother Earth. Accordingly, he welcomed the new agenda's recognition that every country had different approaches and visions for the future, as well as models and tools for achieving sustainable development.

64. Development should maintain a holistic approach that strove for harmony between humans and nature, promoting protection of rights and meeting the material, spiritual, individual and collective needs of all. Development should be based on the full achievement of happiness for all, including women, youth, indigenous peoples and rural communities. Prosperity, which was mentioned in the preamble to the new agenda, should be understood to mean not only material wealth but also a rich and full life in harmony with Mother Earth.

65. There was a risk that the phrase "no one left behind" could come to be an example of empty verbiage, for peoples and countries under foreign occupation were in fact being left behind. It was therefore gratifying that the General Assembly had adopted by consensus a resolution on promoting inclusive and responsible public services, which referred to the incorporation of observer States, particularly Palestine.

66. It was important that no one be left behind by the new agenda, especially refugees and migrants, who were the victims of wars, economic crises in the capitalist system, humanitarian crises and climate change. Those victims were also the children of Mother Earth.

67. Financial speculation mechanisms and vulture funds were examples of the economic crises of the capitalist system and the Western vision of a better life by competing for economic gain at all cost. The international financial system needed a thorough assessment, for it did not respond to the development needs of the peoples of the world and was not democratic. While the international financial system tolerated the activities of vulture funds, it condemned populations to suffer under austerity policies as part of sovereign debt restructuring, yet again choosing profit over people. His country had therefore worked selflessly to promote the initiative of the Group of 77 and China to address reform of the international financial system and sovereign debt restructuring in the General Assembly, the most democratic intergovernmental forum.

68. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the adoption by majority vote of the resolution on basic principles on sovereign debt restructuring practices. Such restructuring had implications for the possibility of growth, which meant development and, in turn,

economic and social rights, as well as the quality of a political system. Those were all matters of great concern to the United Nations.

69. In his recent encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis had inspired people to continue their struggle and had promoted care for the common home of humanity by bringing the whole human family together to seek sustainable and integral development, which would both care for nature and respect the delicate balance among the creatures inhabiting the world. That message should inspire the Second Committee's work.

70. With the approach of the Paris Climate Change Conference, it was up to the peoples of the world to put forth once again their visions and solutions with regard to climate change. He therefore invited everyone to attend the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, to be held in his country from 10 to 12 October 2015.

71. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that developing countries, and least developed countries in particular, should receive support to overcome structural constraints in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development, thereby enabling graduation from least developed country status. Assistance to developing countries in generating resources to fight poverty and achieve sustainable development was a crucial component of the new agenda.

72. The President of the United Republic of Tanzania had noted in his address to the General Assembly that implementing the new agenda was the greatest challenge. Least developed countries such as Tanzania stood to lose most if implementation failed or lagged. It was therefore necessary to break the cycle of talk without action and the focus must be on implementation, particularly for draft resolutions relevant to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

73. While a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development was indeed necessary, each country primarily had the responsibility to mobilize domestic resources for its own development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided a valuable framework for working in partnership at the national, regional and international levels as well as ideal mechanisms for follow-up to and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

74. Technology, innovation and capacity-building were key means of implementation and were the most

important levers of change for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. Support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building measures in developing countries should be stressed.

75. ICTs should be made accessible to all, not only by reducing the gap between urban and rural areas but also by enhancing the scalability of communication services to marginalized and disadvantaged areas where operators were unwilling to invest owing to an anticipated lack of return on their investment. Consequently, it was essential to step up efforts to achieve the objectives and targets of the action plan of the World Summit on the Information Society as part of efforts to bridge the digital divide between the North and the South, particularly in rural areas.

76. The adverse impacts of climate change had become significant and evident in most parts of the world, posing a serious risk to poverty reduction and threatening to undo decades of development efforts. Agricultural development, food security and nutrition were in jeopardy. Serious commitment was necessary to build the adaptive capacity of least developed countries such as Tanzania, where the impact of climate change was more pronounced.

77. **Mr. Pokharel** (Nepal) said that while the 2030 Agenda seemed to leave no one behind, the remaining uncertainty about its effective implementation could be addressed through strong political will. The new agenda built on the unfinished business of the MDGs while incorporating other significant promises. The challenges confronting the most vulnerable countries, a category that included Nepal, were clearly identified under the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action. Nepal had been integrating both into its national plan and programmes and also sought their effective and coherent alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Development costs in landlocked developing countries were 20 per cent higher than in other countries. Freedom of transit for those countries should not be constrained under any circumstances.

78. Implementing the new agenda presented huge challenges, including perceived gaps in resources and means of implementation. New resources must be explored, existing ones put to better use and ODA commitments fully honoured. An effective mechanism was therefore needed for the time-bound implementation of those commitments. The

technological bank should also be operationalized in a way that would make a significant difference in the least developed countries.

79. South-South cooperation held great potential for effectively implementing the new agenda and should be promoted as an important complement to North-South cooperation, including through regional and subregional organizations.

80. Preparations were already under way in Nepal to take full ownership of the new agenda, as had been done for the MDG agenda. Nepal was simultaneously engaged in recovery and reconstruction following the earthquakes earlier in the year. The extent of the loss covered one third of the national economy, with serious implications for efforts to alleviate poverty and graduate from least developed country status. That was a reflection of the fragility of development gains.

81. Climate change had further aggravated vulnerability while making development efforts more challenging and expensive. Nepal, a mountainous country with many of the highest peaks in the world, was concerned about the need to promote and conserve mountain ecosystems. The Paris Climate Change Conference should ensure climate justice for countries that had disproportionately borne the impact of climate change. Successful implementation of the new agenda also depended on the outcome of that Conference, as environmental protection was an integral part of the agenda.

82. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) expressed his country's full commitment and readiness to successfully implement the new development agenda. Most of the issues in the agenda were reflected in the country's national economic blueprint.

83. Despite the adoption of the new agenda, momentum was needed to complete the unfinished MDGs and scale up the relevant commitments, as achievements among developing countries remained uneven and unsatisfactory.

84. Given that the new agenda was ambitious, universal, inclusive and transformative, success hinged largely on implementation, which could be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of varying national circumstances. The new agenda's success would also depend on undertaking follow-up and review processes under the auspices of the high-

level political forum on sustainable development. However, those processes could be effective only if there was accurate data to facilitate monitoring and review of implementation progress. Hence, technical assistance and financial support to developing countries were needed to improve their statistical capacities to better monitor progress and generate relevant data. In that regard, Zimbabwe looked forward to the framework of global indicators being developed by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

85. Renewed global partnerships for development and intensified international cooperation on many fronts were needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda and leave no country behind. There was therefore a need for strong commitments from development partners and the United Nations development system to support the implementation efforts of Member States and especially those of developing countries.

86. A key lesson from the MDGs was that the provision of means of implementation was indispensable for achieving the internationally agreed development goals. The ability of developing countries to achieve the new agenda would hinge largely on the availability of finance, technology and capacity-building support. Enhanced international cooperation was needed in the field of technology development to help developing countries build their own domestic technological capabilities. In that regard, Zimbabwe looked forward to the speedy operationalization of the newly established Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

87. Predictable, adequate and reliable funding was essential to achieve the new agenda's objectives. Enhanced international support was also needed to help developing countries mobilize domestic resources to finance implementation. Donor countries should therefore fulfil and increase their ODA commitments.

88. Developed countries must put in place a supportive global financial, economic and international trade architecture that met the needs and aspirations of developing countries. The latter should be accorded greater policy space and flexibilities to pursue their own national economic policies and development strategies.

89. Climate change remained a threat to sustainable development which, if not addressed, could be the greatest obstacle to achieving the new agenda. All Member States must work closely together to secure a new legally binding multilateral climate agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference in December.

Such an agreement would address issues of adaptation, mitigation, financing of technology transfer and capacity-building in a balanced manner and put all countries on the path to a low-carbon economy, which was necessary to achieve sustainable development.

90. **Ms. Aljazi** (Jordan) said that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals required an enhanced global partnership supported by the policies outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The development financing gap that developing countries would face over the coming 15 years in implementing the new agenda was a significant challenge. ODA and other official flows must be organized more thoughtfully to catalyse and leverage all sources of financing needed for the Goals, particularly with regard to vulnerable middle-income countries and countries in transition that were severely affected by regional and humanitarian crises. That would help them to stay resilient and not put at risk development gains and future prospects for meeting the new Goals. There should be exploration of additional resources that could contribute to the new model of development financing to fulfil the ambitious promises of the Goals.

91. Climate change could undermine the drive for sustainable development. The agreement in Paris should send unambiguous signals that the world must shift its economic and social activity towards more climate-friendly and sustainable pathways. The Paris agreement should not attempt to replace the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was the primary international and intergovernmental forum for addressing the global response to climate change. It must respect the principles of the Convention, and in particular the principles of equity, justice and common but differentiated responsibilities. It must also address in a balanced and effective manner the issues of adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology and capacity-building.

92. **Ms. Pajević** (Montenegro) said that in implementing the new agenda it was important to adhere to the principles of inclusiveness, empowerment, transparency and respect for human rights. Universal respect for human rights was the measure of success in implementing the new agenda.

93. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, each country was responsible for its own social and economic development. National strategies for sustainable development should be based on the

approach that producing goods and services was crucial to improving the material, mental and spiritual well-being of the population. There should be consistent political action focusing on the development of human resources, stimulating investments and preventing decisions that would reduce national resources.

94. National sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financial frameworks, must be strengthened by effective mechanisms that were part of the international economic environment. The new agenda's implementation required an inclusive approach and the mobilization and effective use of all available resources. That must be achieved as part of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development and supported by the concrete policies and actions identified in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

95. Although Montenegro faced numerous challenges, it strove for sustainable development and the preservation of natural resources for future generations. Her country had been among the first in South-Eastern Europe to establish a strategic and institutional framework for sustainable development in accordance with the standards of member countries of the European Union.

96. Through its national sustainable development strategy for the post-2015 period, Montenegro would encourage participation by individuals, families and social groups and also ensure the sustainable and interrelated promotion of human, social, natural and economic resources.

97. An agreement would be reached in Paris to act collectively and decisively on climate change. That would be one more acknowledgement of the responsibility and willingness of all countries and stakeholders to implement obligations in a new phase of development history. Aligning the new agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the climate agreement to be reached in Paris would be the responsibility of all. Yet that would be merely a start, with implementation the key issue.

98. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that favourable conditions were required to achieve sustainable development. Climate change was one of the most important challenges of modern times, and rising to that challenge required bold decisions to mitigate the harmful impacts of global warming emissions and the application of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

99. Kuwait would continue its strong support for global cooperation to address poverty, foreign debt and climate change by meeting the needs of least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

100. Kuwait, a high-income developing State, provided assistance through many mechanisms and initiatives. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development was one of the main instruments that reflected the State policy of Kuwait to assist developing countries. The Fund's mandate had evolved to include extending aid to countries in Asia, Africa and Central and Latin America. His country, which accorded importance to promoting multilateral action, was working to ensure a successful transition from the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals by creating global development partnerships to create better living conditions for the people of the world.

101. The United Nations had the ability to play an objective role in narrowing gaps among all countries and fostering innovative partnerships for sustainable development by bringing together the scientific community, private sector and charitable organizations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

102. **Ms. Schmid-Luebbert** (Germany) said that the 2030 Agenda would be the basis of common economic, social and environmental ambitions for the next 15 years. It should be implemented jointly, and as effectively and efficiently as possible.

103. Throughout the process of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, Germany had strongly advocated for a robust, effective and efficient follow-up and review mechanism that worked with and reinforced existing monitoring structures to track commitments, enable experience-sharing and reciprocal learning, and focus development and transformation efforts. For the 2030 Agenda to transform the world, the global community must analyse and make visible the progress made towards that end.

104. As Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel had stated at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, Germany would be ready to report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the high-level political forum in 2016.

105. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala) said that her country would have to redouble its efforts to eradicate

poverty and reduce inequality, like most middle-income countries in Latin America. Throughout the negotiations on the new agenda there had been discussions on the distinct character of middle-income countries and the cooperation they needed to meet implementation challenges, which differed from what the least developed countries required and did not involve competition for resources.

106. For example, middle-income countries, whose citizenries were more vocal and demanded shared prosperity, needed greater technical assistance to strengthen institutions, in order to make activities more sustainable and provide more rapid results. Areas that could benefit from national efforts included cooperation by developed countries to strengthen the tax administrations of middle-income countries, as well as South-South cooperation to incorporate new productive technologies.

107. Guatemala was particularly susceptible to climate change, having experienced flooding, drought and, more recently, a deadly landslide. Such events were increasing in frequency and duration. Given expanding urbanization, such organizations as the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should be strengthened.

108. Public funds at the national level, derived from taxation, should play a central role in financing for development, especially for middle-income countries. Global rules were needed to prevent the use of legal tax loopholes and tax havens. In that regard, work should begin immediately to enable the Committee of Experts on International Tax Cooperation Matters to hold more frequent sessions. The international financial system was also in need of reform. Priorities included designing an international legal framework for public debt restructuring.

109. The Second Committee must work to put an end to the structural causes of underdevelopment, marginalization, hunger, poverty and food insecurity, which were among the factors that forced many to leave their countries owing to a lack of opportunities for themselves and their children.

110. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana) said that there was a core of critical priorities that must be jointly pursued in the implementation of the new agenda. Immediate steps must be taken on means of implementation to foster confidence and place overall implementation on a sound and sustainable footing. Given the link between the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda,

the elements for early and sustained progress on implementation were in place.

111. Guyana called for prompt action on key deliverables of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including: implementing a new global compact for the delivery of social protection and essential public services for all; increasing international cooperation in tax matters; intensifying efforts to end hunger and malnutrition; promoting debt sustainability; establishing an agreed forum to bridge critical infrastructure gaps; operationalizing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism; and establishing the Economic and Social Council forum for follow-up on financing for development.

112. There was a need to foster policy integration and institutional coherence at multiple levels and to depart from the silo approach. Practical models and approaches combining those dimensions would have to be devised, and the appropriate institutional support structures at the national and international levels must be refined. Cohesive, coordinated and effective work on the part of the Economic and Social Council, in conjunction with the high-level political forum, would be of particular relevance in that regard.

113. The new agenda must be applicable to the situations and circumstances of all countries. It must be acknowledged that the majority of the world community's members were small States, many of which made disproportionately large contributions to addressing global challenges. However, they were often the most adversely impacted by decisions made without reference to their specific interests or needs.

114. To ensure the new agenda's full implementation, it was important to take into account the specific challenges of the poorest and most vulnerable countries, including small island developing States and low-lying coastal developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. Accordingly, a supportive and responsive international framework on climate change, trade, debt, taxation, food security and natural disasters would be required. The countries in question should be enabled to make the necessary investments in social, economic and productive infrastructure to build resilience to a wide array of crucial threats and to incentivize sustainable development so as to make it irreversible. An environment of security and stability must be

guaranteed to assure the ultimate fruition of their development aspirations.

115. **Ms. Mangyel** (Bhutan) said that the new agenda was a holistic, universal and visionary measure that, if successfully implemented, had the potential to bring about true transformation. The least developed countries and landlocked developing countries had outlined their development priorities in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Vienna Programme of Action. Combined with the new agenda, they provided the normative framework and an effective road map for sustainable development in the next decade and beyond for least developed and landlocked developing countries.

116. The focus must now shift to implementation and, in that context, the Second Committee's work during the current session assumed greater importance. It must lay the groundwork for implementing the new agenda and ensuring follow-up to commitments.

117. As both a least developed country and a landlocked developing country, Bhutan continued to believe that the Committee must give due importance to countries in special situations. Major transformative shifts during the period through 2030 must take place in the least developed countries. To that end, ensuring structural economic transformation and building productive capacity and infrastructure were central to spurring economic growth in least developed and landlocked developing countries. Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on building resilient infrastructure, continued to be of strategic importance.

118. The midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which would take place in 2016, was an important step for least developed countries in taking stock of their situation and redoubling efforts to achieve the Programme of Action's development objectives. It would also provide an opportunity both to explore synergies between the Programme of Action and the new agenda and to engage in a mapping exercise to see where the least developed countries stood on the Sustainable Development Goals, followed by the development of an implementation strategy to integrate the Goals into their development plans.

119. Bhutan had been deemed eligible to graduate from the category of least developed countries, and that was in fact an important national objective.

However, graduation should occur on a sound footing and in a sustainable manner, so as to avoid the risk of backtracking on hard-won development gains. Issues related to timelines and transitions required careful and deliberate consideration, a responsibility that rested squarely on the shoulders of the country concerned. In that context, the impact of graduation must be thoroughly assessed and the country concerned was in a strong position to do so. To that end, Bhutan would organize a national workshop in November to discuss proper mechanisms and strategies to provide for smooth graduation.

120. Given that they were at the bottom of the development ladder, the least developed countries must be able to make large transformative shifts. The special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries must be robustly addressed so that they had overland links to global opportunities.

121. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that her country would continue to be an advocate for migrant issues in the Second Committee. In the development context, wider acknowledgement was needed of the positive contributions that migrants made to countries of origin, transit and destination, and more broadly as enablers of development. Migration should be mainstreamed in the development process and remittance costs reduced. All migrants, regardless of their status, deserved support, particularly in the promotion and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

122. The new agenda and the overall global development architecture should strengthen the pillar of resilience. On disaster risk reduction and management, the Philippines would be guided by the Sendai Framework and would support initiatives that made it possible to work on the four priorities of understanding disaster risk, strengthening risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and building back better.

123. Urgent action must be taken to address climate change, with adaptation and mitigation measures put in place, particularly at the local level, and investments increased towards a climate-resilient economy. Holding the presidency of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and as one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippines would promote a meaningful outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference.

124. The Philippines would continue to champion the protection and promotion of the rights of the

marginalized and vulnerable sectors, especially the poor, women, migrants, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and the elderly, and would also further work on mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls within the Committee's programmes and resolutions.

125. Having reaffirmed the call for developed countries to honour their ODA commitments in full, she reiterated the need to recognize and address the special challenges facing middle-income countries in order to better position them to promote development.

126. Partnerships would be crucial to implementing and monitoring the new agenda, which would require increased financial resource flows, technology transfer and capacity-building. In that regard, there must be a revitalized global partnership between Governments, the private sector and civil society. The Philippines also supported the further strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation as a complement to the North-South framework.

127. Full implementation of the new agenda required good governance, the rule of law and effective, accountable and transparent institutions at the regional, national and local levels, as well as within the United Nations. While Member States were primarily responsible for implementing the agenda, partnership with a credible United Nations was equally essential for the agenda's success.

128. **Mr. Dennis** (Liberia) said that the Committee's current session was taking place against a backdrop of armed conflict, migration, environmental degradation and worsening economic challenges, which had all slowed national development efforts and weakened economies' productive sectors. Global events such as the Ebola crisis in West Africa and the refugee crisis in Europe were strong indications of the enormity of the problems facing the world.

129. Liberia was pleased with the outcomes of the new agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and was particularly encouraged by references therein to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, among others. The international community's support for the aforementioned would do much to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

130. Completing the unfinished business of the MDGs was a major component in realizing transformative growth and development. His delegation was particularly interested in promoting such areas as health, education, infrastructure development and water and sanitation, while also halting illicit financial flows. The recent Ebola crisis in Liberia was a reminder that strengthened health systems were important for withstanding the contagion effects of global epidemics. Liberia was gratified by the establishment of the High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises.

131. Implementing strong international policies to halt illicit financial flows would bring in necessary domestic revenue for countries to finance development and the new agenda. Liberia supported efforts to strengthen domestic resource mobilization programmes across developing countries.

132. The huge infrastructure deficit across Africa, including in Liberia, was slowing economic growth and development. Energy supply was crucial to drive economic activities and the industrialization of Africa. Liberia urged support for the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa to facilitate the provision of energy, telecommunications and transport infrastructure across the continent.

133. The thematic items contained in the Committee's programme of work captured issues crucial to the achievement of the new agenda. In that respect, his delegation welcomed efforts by the Government of Sweden to form a high-level informal group to boost implementation of the new development agenda across countries.

134. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that, in line with the new global approach, Armenia had updated its poverty reduction strategy, placing greater focus on the development of human capital by gradually replacing monetary assistance with comprehensive packages of capacity-building services. New solutions and approaches were critical to increase the quality of professional education and bring it into compliance with labour market demands and meet its national strategic educational and development objectives, as well as international standards. The Government of Armenia continued to expand its reach among young innovators and social entrepreneurs not only to enhance citizens' engagement in co-creating development solutions, but also to capitalize on successful pilot projects in partnership with development partners.

135. As a landlocked developing country, Armenia believed that coherent steps should be taken to ensure more efficient use of transportation networks and infrastructure to promote trade, facilitate investment and cooperation, enhance cross-border transportation and improve regional connectivity. The integration of the Vienna Programme of Action into the new agenda had been an important step to promote a sustainable and inclusive development agenda that left no one behind. Proper consideration should be given to implementing the Vienna Programme of Action within a comprehensive reporting framework for the post-2015 agenda, involving the multiple stakeholders responsible for the Programme.

136. Financing for development also called for improved mobilization and more effective use of financial and non-financial resources, taking into account the challenges and complexities of the global finance landscape. The role of public finance was evolving, and new forms of blended finance that included government and donor-raised money were being explored more frequently to increase leverage from the private sector, especially in middle-income countries that were more toward the low range.

137. Addressing the issue of the bankability of projects and providing public-private solutions to financing projects would be critical to delivering on the sustainable development commitments. To that end, the best possible use should be made of existing external and local resources in order to leverage comparative advantages and boost productive capacity and employment. She therefore supported discussions of new schemes and solutions, aimed at harnessing the potential of the private sector and public-private partnerships with a view to enhancing bankability, entrepreneurship and innovation in all areas of the economy.

138. Armenia recognized the core role of the United Nations and the high-level political forum in reviewing implementation of the new agenda. Reliable, relevant and valid data to measure progress were indispensable for any follow-up and review mechanism. The role of national statistical agencies was of utmost importance, and it was crucial to step up efforts to strengthen international cooperation to build statistical capacity and generate real-time, disaggregated high-quality data so that progress could be monitored through a set of universal and harmonized global indicators.

139. Armenia welcomed the proposed road map for developing an indicator framework and looked forward to continuing to work with partners to finalize a set of reliable, relevant and valid global indicators to monitor and measure progress. Global indicators should be supported and supplemented by national and regional indicators. Discussions that promoted information-sharing and capacity-building for sustainable development data and related areas provided added value.

140. **Ms. Jemuovic** (Serbia) said that amidst problems such as sluggish growth, recessionary trends, stagnation and unemployment, there were encouraging signs of recovery. However, debt crises continued to burden lenders as well as debtors, who must work together to resolve unsustainable debt situations. The migrant crisis in Europe, which was especially severe in the Mediterranean region, had created new, unmet challenges.

141. While there were doubts as to whether the Sustainable Development Goals were realistic and achievable, with some saying that a wish list of unattainable targets had been created, those opinions had not prevailed. There had been a strong and unequivocal call at the recent summit to pool efforts to achieve the Goals by 2030.

142. In the context of financing for sustainable development, the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the agreement to establish a global infrastructure forum were both very significant events. It was also vital to strengthen the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

143. Serbia intended to establish an intergovernmental body to follow, monitor and assess the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to formulate a new strategy for sustainable development and its financing over the coming 15 years. It would work closely with the United Nations country team on achieving the Goals as part of a new development partnership framework for the period 2016 to 2020, to be signed soon. The Government would also adopt a report on realization of the MDGs. Furthermore, Serbia planned to organize regional consultations with neighbouring partners on how to cooperate to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

144. A global agreement must be reached in Paris to limit global temperature increases to less than 2 degrees Celsius. In that regard, Serbia had already announced its

intended nationally determined contribution by committing to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 9.8 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

145. With more than 170,000 migrants passing through her country thus far in 2015, Serbia lay on one of the main routes taken by the new wave of migrants. Notwithstanding their own economic and social challenges, which included 44,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and over 200,000 internally displaced persons, the people of Serbia had demonstrated empathy and solidarity, providing food, water and shelter, with the help of bilateral donors and United Nations agencies. New walls and razor fences should not be built in Europe in the twenty-first century, neither should borders be closed nor transport disrupted.

146. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the goal of addressing global poverty was at the heart of the Second Committee's work. As Pope Francis had said in his address to the General Assembly, to empower people to escape extreme poverty it was necessary to allow people to be dignified agents of their own destiny. That required policy decisions based on promoting integral human development and dignity rather than maximizing economic benefit.

147. Poverty involved a lack of material goods as well as social, cultural and spiritual resources and all those less tangible values needed to lead a wholesome and dignified life. Lifting people out of poverty did not mean providing only adequate food and water, basic health care and decent work, but also the right to education, free speech, religious freedom and other fundamental human freedoms. With two years remaining in the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the delegation of the Holy See hoped that it would be possible to build on the success of lifting over a billion people out of poverty since 1990 and help those still mired in extreme poverty to attain a life of dignity and freedom.

148. Pope Francis had said that concern for the environment must be joined to sincere love for fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society. The inherent link between sustainable development and care for the environment challenged models of development that, while inarguably generating wealth and economic progress, also caused greater socioeconomic

inequalities and environmental destruction. In the race for technological progress and ever greater material wealth, billions of people had been left behind, and the planet had suffered.

149. Pope Francis saw environmental degradation and the exclusion of so many from enjoying the fruits of development as two aspects of the same challenge, recalling that humanity was faced not with two crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis that was both social and environmental. Strategies to find solutions to complex contemporary problems demanded an integrated approach to combating poverty and restoring dignity to the underprivileged while also protecting nature.

150. Contemporary economies relied increasingly upon human, financial and natural resources far removed from consumers. The migration crisis was a stark reminder of the human costs of a global system unresponsive to the needs of billions. A renewed ethical and moral awareness of people's responsibilities to their communities was needed.

151. Global economic discussions that focused solely on increasing greater profits or generating greater consumption failed to ask the larger and deeper questions of whether such actions were truly just. Discussions should address systematic economic challenges and opportunities but also focus on how to incorporate proper ethical and moral requirements into systems so that they could serve the weaker communities and countries, instead of reinforcing greater inequalities by favouring the strong. Without such moral values in globalized systems, there was an increased risk of abetting globalized indifference, an unwillingness to hear victims' cries and an inability to feel their pain.

152. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, while speaking Arabic, the representative of Israel had expediently forgotten that he represented the occupying Power. His response was very familiar, because those who represented the Israeli occupation authorities lacked the courage to speak about facts and the right of the Syrian people to remove occupied Syrian Golan from the pernicious Israeli occupation in effect since 1967.

153. The representative of Israel had digressed from the Committee's work and had made a politicized statement. Conversely, the statement by the

representative of the Syrian Arab Republic the previous day had been based on scores of resolution adopted by the United Nations and the agenda item allocated to the Second Committee, all stressing the need to end the Israeli occupation, which was a major obstacle to development in the region and affected the sovereignty of the Syrian population in the occupied Golan.

154. Israel supported the al-Nusrah Front, which had been characterized as a terrorist organization by the Security Council. That was documented by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. The entire world and all reports of the United Nations condemned settlement activity and called upon Israel to put an end to settlement-building. All those calls had gone unheeded and those resolutions had not been respected by the Israeli authorities, who continued to pursue brutal policies that denied the native population access to their natural resources. Israel supported many terrorists on the ceasefire line and deprived the region of prospects for development and security. One of the most important requisites for development, stressed by the new agenda, called for ending colonialism and foreign occupation, which undermined all sustainable developments efforts by peoples languishing under occupation. Israel, which had occupied Arab territories for over six decades, should heed the calls to ensure stability and peace in the region and enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.