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Chair: Mr. Djani (Indonesia)

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

Opening statement by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that the international community was still grappling with the momentous change brought about by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related commitments undertaken throughout 2015 in Sendai, Addis Ababa and Paris. The 2030 Agenda embodied key principles in line with a new global vision for achieving lasting peace and prosperity. It was universal, applying to all peoples and all countries; it was indivisible, meaning that progress should be reinforcing across all dimensions; and it was inclusive, leaving no one behind and ensuring that results were broad-based, equitable and sustainable across generations. It was important to build on the progress made at the Committee's seventieth session and throughout 2015 in advancing thought and action on the Sustainable Development Goals, which offered a welcome adjustment to past development models.

2. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was the ultimate test of success and progress was already being made. Member States had already outlined how they were aligning national development plans and policies with the Sustainable Development Goals. To support such efforts, the effectiveness and coordination of United Nations operational activities for development would need to be strengthened, and the Committee would have a key role to play in that regard during the discussion of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. There was a need to ensure that, in addition to the sources of finance identified in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, such other resources as official development assistance (ODA), debt relief and debt sustainability, and science technology and innovation were used in support of sustainable development.

3. The Committee's work was essential in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in addressing sustainable development challenges. The Committee must work coherently within the broader international institutional framework, as part of a more effective General Assembly, in tandem with the Economic and Social Council, and including through the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

4. Global economic imbalances and entrenched inequalities were threatening the achievement of sustainable development for all. The situation was compounded by risks and vulnerabilities in the social, political and environmental spheres. Globalization was challenging many closely held assumptions about the role of multilateralism in solving international problems, and approaches to globalization were divided. The 2030 Agenda recognized that the future of all was bound together, and that working under agreed principles, each actor, including Governments and stakeholders from the private sector and civil society, had something unique to offer to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee must build on the recognition of that interdependence, ensuring a consensus-based, integrated approach that would generate the best results in implementation. He trusted that he could count on the collaboration and constructive engagement of participants at the current session with a view to fulfilling the collective commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

5. **Mr. Wu Hongbo** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the current meeting coincided with the launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2016, which would advance understanding of the many links between climate and development, and identify key challenges to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. Turning to the global economic backdrop, he said that world economic growth remained subdued and was expected to improve only modestly over the next two years. Low levels of investment and slow productivity growth were likely to undermine the longer-term potential of the global economy. In addition, commodity price decline had adversely affected the least developed countries where average gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2015 had slowed to a decade low of 4 per cent. Accordingly, the growth of those economies over the next few years was likely to remain well below the 7 per cent specified in target 8.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Appropriate, effective, timely and coordinated policy measures at the national, regional and global levels

were required to revive global growth and create an enabling environment to deliver on all the Goals.

7. The discourse on globalization and interdependence provided a backdrop to the performance of the world economy. Although it was commonly agreed that globalization, if properly managed, could be a force for a more prosperous and secure future, the mood towards globalization and interdependence was changing in many countries. The role of multilateralism in managing global public goods and mediating global political and economic relations was being questioned. Some observers feared a retreat to isolationism and protectionism, at a time when greater international cooperation and a strengthened global partnership for development were required. It was encouraging that many high-level speakers at the general debate of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly and the segment to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development had recognized that any reversal in multilateral cooperation and globalization would seriously undermine the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The overriding theme of the recent summit of the Group of 20 in Hangzhou had concerned delivering on the 2030 Agenda. Such issues as concern about economic growth, rejection of protectionism, effective policy cooperation and coordination to help mitigate the negative spillover effects of domestic policies, the need to ensure broad-based opportunities, and better economic coordination and governance, had featured prominently at the summit.

8. During the current year, all attention should focus on implementation of the 2030 Agenda; actions of all partners at the multilateral, bilateral and regional levels must be complementary. The United Nations system as a whole would play a crucial role in building inclusive and prosperous societies and a healthy planet. The experience gained in each cycle of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development should serve to promote higher levels of delivery on all the Sustainable Development Goals. Countries should continue to present their voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum.

9. He drew attention to steps taken to advance the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, such as the first Economic and Social Council forum

on financing for development follow-up, held in April 2016, which had resulted in a concise and forward-looking outcome document, and the successful holding of the first Global Infrastructure Forum and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Noting that the Committee would be reviewing progress in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), he said that poverty eradication was vital to achieve the social dimension of sustainable development. Macroeconomic, trade, investment, financial and environmental policies must work in tandem with social policies in order to eradicate poverty and inequality in all their forms. Although the level of extreme poverty had dropped in all regions, one in eight people still lived on less than \$1.90 a day. The World Economic and Social Survey 2016 had shown that climate change and inequalities were locked in a vicious cycle, with the poor, vulnerable and marginalized at greatest risk. The best climate adaptation policies were those that simultaneously addressed immediate vulnerabilities and structural inequalities.

11. Highlighting the importance of coherent and well-integrated policies and strategies across a wide range of complex areas, he said that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was developing modelling tools to assess scenarios for sustainable development policies and strategies that were available through a web-based portal launched early that year. In order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, careful attention would have to be given to a number of other institutional and capacity questions, including information and communication technologies (ICT), and the need for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. While an increasing number of countries were putting in place institutional arrangements to ensure that the 2030 Agenda was implemented in a coherent and integrated manner, greater engagement with parliaments and local authorities was required, as were high-quality, accessible and timely data. The United Nations was committed to assisting countries in building national statistical capacities; a new \$10 million Development Account project would support the strengthening of national statistical systems.

12. Turning to key items before the Committee during the current session, he said that the time had come for

the Committee to give concrete guidance to the United Nations development system through a strategic and outcome-oriented resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Although the text might not be able to cover some major areas warranting change, it could lay the foundations for the changes to be steered by the Secretary-General the following year. The Committee should also provide clear guidance for the next General Assembly dialogue on migration and development.

13. In its efforts to deliver as one, the United Nations development system had proven its ability to adjust. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs would continue to collaborate with other development partners and stakeholders in civil society, the private sector and academia to support delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

Keynote address by Ms. Moyo, Global Economist and Author

14. **Ms. Moyo** (Global Economist and Author), addressing the topic: “One World, One Vision: Tackling Global Imbalances to Achieve the 2030 Agenda”, said that a growth rate of 7 per cent per annum was required to double per capita income in one generation. However, the international economy was experiencing extremely low growth, and the International Monetary Fund was predicting that the rates of growth enjoyed before 2007 were unlikely to ever be experienced again. The world’s largest emerging market economies were either growing at a rate of 1 to 2 per cent per annum or even contracting, hampering the ability to improve living standards and relieve poverty. Geopolitical and health risks were exacerbating the situation. It was estimated that over 65 countries would experience high levels of social unrest in the coming years and that some 80 per cent of the world’s population could be living in fragile States. Antimicrobial resistance was also on the rise.

15. The main factors making matters much more complicated than in the past included technology, which had enhanced communication but was potentially creating a jobless underclass, particularly among the younger population. The rapidly increasing population, which was expected to grow from around the current level of 8 billion to 11 billion by 2100, coupled with an underinvestment in quality education and challenges

associated with ageing populations, must also be addressed as a matter of priority.

16. Natural resource scarcity was another important issue that deserved attention; imbalances between demand-side pressures, associated with rising populations and increasing wealth, and supply-side constraints left States at risk of scarcity and conflict.

17. Although income inequality had narrowed between States, it was increasing within States and should be addressed. Furthermore, with global debt estimated to be as high as \$240 trillion against a global GDP of \$60 trillion, debt needed to be properly managed to ensure that it did not constitute an obstacle to long-term economic growth.

18. Further consideration should also be given to the factors causing productivity declines in almost every sector in many countries in recent years, particularly as productivity, which was one of three key drivers of economic growth, would need to increase at quite a rapid rate if economic growth was to be achieved.

19. Public policy response was another concern. At a time when many countries were accepting that democracy and market capitalism were essential for sustained economic growth, there was a reversal of opinion, particularly among developed countries, regarding the key tenets of globalization, namely trade, cross-border capital flows to emerging markets, free movement of people, and smaller Governments with larger private sector economic involvement.

20. In order to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, create economic growth on a sustained basis and improve living standards, it was imperative to re-evaluate the political and economic models being followed, for example by reconsidering how growth was measured and the extent of interaction with non-State actors such as philanthropists.

21. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that, notwithstanding the challenges ahead, it was important to remember that progress had been made. Very encouraging economic growth had resulted in poverty eradication in some countries, including in Africa. He questioned neoliberal policies that had focused only on financial aspects of the global economy, and stressed that people, not finance, must be at the centre of any development model.

22. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda) said that de-risking constituted a stumbling block for a number of countries embracing globalization. Such practices, including in the remittance market, had a major impact on trade and a detrimental effect on growth and development of countries, many of which had worked hard to meet internationally recognized financial standards. Noting that philanthropy was viewed as the third sector in many countries, he asked whether engagement with philanthropists could be a useful tool in helping Governments to meet challenges that they would otherwise be unable to meet.

23. **Ms. Moyo** (Global Economist and Author) said that globalization had been a catalyst for the tremendous progress that had been achieved before the financial crisis, not only in Africa, but across the emerging world. The shift away from globalization towards increased protectionism would make economic success more difficult to achieve. Although neoliberal policies had been implemented, a neoliberal agenda had never really been implemented fully; she drew attention in that regard to the trade agenda and subsidies placed on agricultural goods, including by the European Union, that were excluding commodity producers in emerging markets. The financial sector had become a very large proportion of the economy for a number of countries and some Governments had become heavily reliant on the banking system for the provision of public policy and social financing. However, an aggressive backlash against the capital system towards a stringent regulatory environment for the financial systems that were supposed to drive investment would have significant consequences for economic growth.

24. Regional integration would help smaller countries to create effective communities and compete in a global trading environment characterized by an increasing number of trade agreements. Integration, including at the fiscal, monetary and political levels, rather than superficial integration, was conducive to economic growth. While engagement with non-State actors would be useful to tackle global challenges, further consideration should be given to ensuring that, when interacting with philanthropists, Governments were not able to abdicate their public policy role and could still be held accountable.

25. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union, which considered trade as one of the best means of fighting the economic crisis, was not on a path towards greater protectionism and was pursuing a bilateral agenda with developed and developing countries. It granted duty-free and quota-free access under its generalized scheme of preferences to all least developed countries and was the largest trading partner of several least developed and developing countries.

26. **Ms. Moyo** (Global Economist and Author) said that it was understandable why many countries would choose to support their local farmers rather than rely on imports. The international community was aware of the current challenges facing the European Union and was looking to the European Union to provide leadership in resisting protectionist tendencies.

General debate

27. **Mr. Plaisi** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee's work during the current session was crucial in establishing a robust framework and effective tools for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It must target the overarching objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and pursue the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced, coordinated and integrated manner, building upon the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The New Urban Agenda to be endorsed at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Agenda (Habitat III) would also help to pave the way towards sustainable development.

28. National implementation, including through home-grown approaches taking into account national circumstances and priorities, was key to the successful implementation of the ambitious, universal and transformative 2030 Agenda. In order to leave no one behind, it was important to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, particularly African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and also the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and countries and peoples under foreign occupation.

29. Noting the importance of effective means of implementation, he said that ODA would remain an important input in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Developing countries should also be given assistance with respect to long-term debt sustainability and financial inclusion. If economic growth was to contribute positively to poverty reduction, macroeconomic and social policies should focus more on job creation and social inclusion. Further investment in such areas as infrastructure, interconnectivity, agricultural development, quality health-care services and education, was also required. The agreed conclusions and recommendations of the inaugural forum on financing for development follow-up had failed to address obstacles and challenges to the implementation of financing for development outcomes and to provide policy recommendations for action, particularly concerning support from developed to developing countries. The Group therefore called for the further strengthening of the forum.

30. International trade was an engine for inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. Accordingly, a fair, balanced, open, inclusive, non-discriminatory, rules-based and predictable multilateral trading system should be strengthened. All forms of coercive economic measures against developing countries must be eliminated immediately. Global economic governance must also be improved by increasing the representation and voice of developing countries and ensuring that those countries participated fully in global supply and value chains.

31. A revitalized global partnership was necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda at all levels, and the Group stood ready to work with development partners to advance development cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation were complementary to North-South cooperation, which remained at the heart of the global partnership for sustainable development.

32. The Group welcomed the Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the Hangzhou Summit of the Group of 20 and urged continued engagement within that framework.

33. Climate change was one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and undermined the ability to achieve sustainable development. The Group hoped that the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would

enter into force by the end of the year. It also hoped that the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance would be strengthened, while maintaining full respect for the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

34. Efforts should be made to address the challenges of forced displacement and irregular migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, while ensuring full respect for the human rights of those concerned, regardless of their status.

35. The draft resolution concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must give long-term strategic guidance for the United Nations development system vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda. The effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of United Nations operational activities for development must be strengthened, and the system-wide policy orientation for development cooperation must provide an appropriate response to diverse needs and constraints, notably of developing countries.

36. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that she was pleased to announce the adoption at the eighth ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held on 7 September 2016 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, of the ASEAN-United Nations plan of action for 2016-2020 to implement the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations. The plan of action focused on achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and on achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its blueprints. It contained a number of elements, including the strengthening of coordination between the two development frameworks; the exchange of best monitoring and reporting practices; the exploration of new partnerships to harness the private sector's resources; the enhancement of cooperation to strengthen the ASEAN statistical system; and support for the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020.

37. At a special session of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting focusing on sustainable development, convened in September 2016 in New York, ministers had recognized the need for a holistic approach in implementing the 2030 Agenda in order to facilitate the effective contributing role of ASEAN to sustainable development efforts. They had agreed on the importance

of identifying priority areas where complementarities could be enhanced and had noted the utility of developing a roadmap to guide such efforts, which contained a clear timeline for identification and implementation of activities, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The ministers had also recognized the need for a global partnership, particularly in mobilizing means of implementation, in order to attain the 2030 Agenda. They had agreed to enhance regional cooperation in science and technology development and capacity-building, including with respect to strengthening statistical capacity, and had also highlighted the importance of identifying best implementation practices that could be replicated in other countries.

38. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), recalled that small island developing States, which faced many challenges because of factors such as their remote locations, distance to markets and diseconomies of scale, had been recognized as a special case for sustainable development. Climate change remained one of the greatest threats to the survival of many small island developing States, with extreme weather events causing debilitating damage to infrastructure and reversing development gains.

39. While every effort should be made to implement the Paris Agreement, there should also be a focus on boosting implementation capacity, particularly in developing countries. International financial institutions should take into account the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by small island developing States, including the economic impact of climate change. Criteria other than GDP should be taken into account when determining eligibility for financing opportunities, and small island developing States should participate in decision-making and norm setting processes relevant to them.

40. Oceans and seas afforded a livelihood, were a significant part of cultural heritage, and offered substantial biodiversity for the global community. AOSIS therefore looked forward to the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in June 2017.

41. Small island developing States continued to call for the necessary linkages among and within the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Committee's work. They recalled the Partnership Framework established through General Assembly resolution 70/202 to follow up on the existing partnerships and looked forward to the evaluation of the findings of the comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States. Means of implementation as well as the follow-up and review constituted a top priority in facilitating the achievement of specific commitments within the Samoa Pathway. AOSIS looked to United Nations entities and development partners for assistance in that regard.

42. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group least developed countries had enormous potential to further global economic growth and prosperity. However of Least Developed Countries, said that the, the multiple, long-standing structural challenges that continued to obstruct growth, including stagnant trade and investment flows, diminishing productivity growth and poverty, hunger and malnutrition, were being compounded by new and emerging challenges, such as climate change, increased incidence of natural disasters and public health emergencies and conflict. Greater recognition should be given to the importance of structural transformation in those countries, and particular attention given to those least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, those experiencing political instability or those unable to deliver basic State services. It was reassuring to note that the recently adopted global agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 acknowledged that the least developed countries deserved special attention and underlined the importance of strong synergy in implementation at all levels.

43. Noting that the onus of development lay primarily with the least developed countries themselves, he said that significant progress had been made in achieving the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action and MDGs, and some least developed countries had already begun to prepare for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The international community must, however, deliver on its commitments to provide support. Serious efforts must be made to

enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development in least developed countries, focusing in particular on poverty eradication, inclusive growth and social protection. Participatory, cooperative and enabling environments should be created at all levels with increasing South-South cooperation complementing North-South cooperation.

44. The Group looked forward to the speedy ratification of the Paris Agreement, which called for specific support for the most vulnerable least developed countries. Increased efforts were required to mobilize adequate resources for implementation, in addition to the funds provided through ODA. The Group called on development partners to achieve the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020 under the Green Climate Fund. It also called for the establishment and operationalization of a crisis mitigation and resilience-building mechanism, and noted the guidance in that regard provided in the Political Declaration adopted at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

45. It was a matter of concern that the share of least developed countries in global trade was decreasing. The lack of progress on many issues under the Doha Development Agenda was preventing the least developed countries from accessing the development benefits of a fair and equitable trading system. At least a 50 per cent share of Aid-for-Trade initiatives should be given to the least developed countries, and the provision of duty-free and quota-free market access for all products would help the least developed countries to double their global share of exports by 2020. Measures should also be undertaken to extend specific preferences to enhance the participation of the least developed countries in the services trade.

46. ODA remained the largest source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries. Development partners should allocate at least 50 per cent of ODA to least developed countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The correct balance must be struck in allocating ODA among the various sectors, with a particular focus on productive sectors.

47. While welcoming the progress towards the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least

Developed Countries, he said that least developed countries required increased investment in such fields as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, ICT, and youth and women. Greater foreign direct investment would constitute a means to address productive capacity-building and full and productive employment creation. Reinvigorated discussions were also needed on the implementation of investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries.

48. Noting that migration was an enabler of development and recognizing the economic contribution of migrant remittances, the Group strongly encouraged partner countries to take action on migration along the lines provided for in the 2030 Agenda. It also considered that the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should serve to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the United Nations operational activities for development to support the least developed countries.

49. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that efforts should be made during the current session to build on the momentum generated through the adoption in recent years of a number of historic agreements. CARICOM, which supported actions to facilitate the swift implementation of such agreements, was looking forward to the final adoption of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III.

50. Although Caribbean countries had experienced some improvement in certain economic sectors, growth remained sluggish. Challenges such as unemployment and external debt together with open economies, made the Caribbean region one of the most vulnerable in the world. The global financial and economic architecture required fundamental reform to ensure long-term stability and promote development. Although CARICOM acknowledged the efforts of self-appointed interest groups to address global financial stability, such groups did not necessarily include the voice of small and developing States, which must be heard in discussions on financial governance. The United Nations, which was the only forum where small, vulnerable countries could make a tangible contribution to global discourse on issues of concern to them, must therefore be accorded a deepened role in international economic discussions.

51. The Caribbean was one of the most indebted regions in the world. Without access to concessionary funding as a result of their middle-income classification, many Caribbean countries had been forced to increase their debt burdens. A number were experiencing a debt-to-GDP ratio of over 60 per cent and, in a few cases, that ratio was even more than 100 per cent. The problem was compounded by the region's exposure to natural disasters estimated to cost more than \$2 billion per annum.

52. The latest challenge facing CARICOM countries was the withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships, which threatened to cut off countries from the global trading system, weaken their economies and increase levels of poverty. Such de-risking practices were pushing countries even further into debt. CARICOM leaders would shortly be convening a high-level conference on de-risking in Antigua and Barbuda and called on the United Nations to help in identifying a solution to the problem.

53. Financing for development was the cornerstone for the successful achievement of internationally agreed outcomes, and CARICOM countries called for constructive engagement at the highest level in terms of follow up and review. Important areas for follow-up included the Global Infrastructure Forum, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, enhancing international tax cooperation, increasing support for debt sustainability, and formulating methodologies that took into consideration the complex and diverse realities of middle-income countries.

54. **Ms. Moses** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that the work of the Committee, including through the annual resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the consideration of the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations system support for small island developing States, was critical in addressing the special needs and vulnerabilities of those countries. The Committee should focus not only on building individual capacity but also on strengthening national institutional capacities in order to create meaningful gains. It was also critical to ensure that the Committee's work supported the creation of linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway.

55. The Pacific small island developing States looked forward to constructive discussion on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review with a view to developing the necessary architecture for the United Nations development system.

56. The Pacific small island developing States continued to call for an elevated response and to climate change — a threat multiplier and an obstacle to sustainable development. They were keenly aware of the negative impact of human activity on the oceans and looked forward to the convening of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in June 2017.

57. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that in order to remain relevant, the Committee must embrace the highly ambitious sustainable development agenda in form and substance, capturing fully the integrated nature of the new paradigm in individual resolutions. The relevant action and changes were not, however, reflected in the Committee's agenda. While it was deeply regrettable that the process of revitalizing the Committee's work had not yielded the improvements necessary, the European Union remained keen to engage in good faith and with an open mind to make the Second Committee fit for purpose and a constructive and credible forum in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

58. In order to function more efficiently, the Committee should avoid duplication of negotiations with other United Nations forums and hold early consultations on draft resolutions, as had been the case with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. It was important to respect the deadlines set by the Bureau to ensure full and informed participation of all Member States and adequate space for consultations. The European Union would request late submissions that did not allow sufficient time for consultations to be deferred to the next session.

59. The draft resolution concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, to which the European Union attached high priority, offered a critical opportunity to make the United Nations development system as a whole able to act in the more integrated, coherent, effective and efficient manner required to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While important input, such as the Economic and Social

Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the development system and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/71/292) and his recommendations (A/71/292/Rev.1) required further consideration, the European Union cautioned against making the draft resolution overly prescriptive and detailed. The text should strike the right balance in underlining the strategic nature of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and providing clear and implementable mandates for the work of the development system.

60. Turning to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, he said that the stakes were particularly high for the least developed countries. The Political Declaration adopted at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 built on the major breakthroughs of the 2030 Agenda and provided the least developed countries with a robust roadmap for the coming years. Cross-cutting issues, such as the empowerment and human rights of women and girls, were essential elements for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

61. With regard to the environment, the European Union welcomed the large number of resolutions adopted at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the commitment of that Assembly to contribute to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The European Union and its member States had long been committed to international efforts to tackle climate change and were now ready to ratify the landmark Paris Agreement. They urged other countries to do likewise to ensure universal ratification. The empowerment of local actors was crucial not only to fight climate change but also to implement the New Urban Agenda, which would be adopted at Habitat III and should be followed up in line with the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations system should act as one in supporting proper implementation.

62. Countries had a shared responsibility to address the challenge of migration as a global issue. One way of ensuring that migration was safe, legal, voluntary

and well managed was to address the root causes, including by implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in their entirety.

63. If global economic recovery was to become stronger, economic growth would need to be inclusive and sustainable and its benefits must be shared more broadly within and among countries.

64. **Mr. Chauhan** (India) said that his country, which would be presenting its voluntary national review in 2017, had integrated the Sustainable Development Goal framework into its national development strategies and allocated one day during each session of parliament to discussing progress on the Goals. The commitment of developed countries to resource mobilization, capacity-building and technical assistance, and the role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism were critical.

65. Noting that some 800 million people still lived in extreme poverty, he said that the Second Committee, through its discussion of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, could chart the course for the United Nations development system to achieve the 2030 Agenda with an unrelenting focus on poverty eradication. Although India agreed that additional financing for any other purpose could not come at the expense of development funding, it was concerned that attempts to divert resources from development programmes could have a detrimental effect on developing countries.

66. India welcomed the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at Habitat III, which it trusted would set a new global strategy for sustainable urbanization.

67. The previous day, India had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement. Recognizing the importance of climate justice and the continuing relevance of common but differentiated responsibilities, India had already embarked on the path towards climate action. In accordance with its intended nationally determined contribution, India would lower its emissions intensity to 35 per cent, increase the share of non-fossil based power generation capacity to 40 per cent and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion tonnes through afforestation.

68. India attached great importance to the area of disaster management, which was an area covered in the twelfth Five Year Plan and the subject of relevant

legislation enacted in 2005. A total of 10 per cent of development funds were earmarked for innovation, disaster mitigation and restoration. His country, which was committed to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, had recently released its national disaster management plan and would be hosting the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2016 in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. It also hosted the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation Disaster Management Centre and the centre operating the tsunami early warning system.

69. As a major country of origin, destination and transit for migrants, India was committed to the international community's efforts to bring a humane approach and order to international migration. The agreed principles of common but differentiated responsibility must be respected.

70. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines) said that efforts in 2016 had sought to provide for the full and effective implementation of the priority goals set out in the agreements adopted in 2015. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016 and the forthcoming adoption of the New Urban Agenda would build on the efforts to leave no one behind.

71. The Philippines had been one of the first countries to submit its voluntary national review, and that undertaking had provided an opportunity to identify which goals required greater focus. Her country's sustainable development strategy was based around human development. Continued efforts were being made to enhance the delivery and quality of basic social services, such as health, education and housing, benchmarked against global standards. Environmental preservation, cultural respect and the pursuit of social justice constituted key components of national development frameworks.

72. During the current session, the Philippines would continue to focus on the overarching goal of poverty eradication. To that end, it would continue to mainstream migration into the sustainable development agenda, advocate a more nuanced engagement for the United Nations development system with middle-income countries, and leverage South-South cooperation and ICT for development.

73. The Philippines attached high importance to disaster risk reduction and recognized the need for a risk-informed approach. As one of the countries most prone to disasters and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, her country reiterated its call for climate justice and respect for the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities in the implementation of obligations under the Paris Agreement.

74. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) said that consideration of achievements, lessons learned and the impetus required to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda should guide the work of the Second Committee. Priorities should include poverty eradication and reducing inequalities, economic growth and job creation, industrial development, and ensuring sufficient financing for development.

75. Over the previous year, many countries had finalized their national implementation plans and begun the first phase of implementation. Egypt would be pleased to share its experience of presenting its voluntary national review with other countries planning to present their reviews the following year.

76. Regarding implementation at the regional level, he highlighted the annual meetings of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development and noted that the League of Arab States had established a new division for sustainable development issues. The United Nations, for its part, had engaged actively in launching various forums and platforms agreed under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and had completed the follow-up and review framework. Although there had been important achievements in some areas, efforts in others had lacked the desired level of ambition.

77. Those efforts were being made against a backdrop of global economic challenges, notably limited access to sufficient means of implementation and continued structural challenges, which were affecting developing countries in particular. Africa's share in total world exports continued to decrease, as did the contribution of the manufacturing sector to Africa's GDP. Moreover, the total number of people living below the poverty line was increasing in some parts of the world, particularly Africa.

78. The international economic system was unable to support developing countries in achieving their aspirations and the situation had to be rectified. He asked what had been achieved in the protracted negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda and why support to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization — a leading United Nations agency in developing countries whose work constituted the very essence of Sustainable Development Goal 9 — was being withdrawn.

79. While multilateralism had many advantages, it also had a number of drawbacks, and introduced peripheral issues that detracted from the central focus. Poverty, which was the enemy of development, could be overcome only if States mobilized the necessary political will and sufficient means of implementation, while expanding their productive base and improving basic services.

80. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that it was time for the international community to translate words into action to achieve the objectives of the historic 2030 Agenda and the overarching goal of poverty eradication. She called for a true global alliance providing access to financial and technological resources and stressed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility must be respected.

81. Nicaragua, which had grown on average by 5.2 per cent over the previous five years, was striving to achieve its sustainable development. Its large institutional capacity for managing foreign investment and the administration of strategic projects, had enabled it to improve public finance, develop a public infrastructure and undertake important social programmes. Its relationship with international and regional financial institutions was a sovereign one and must not be subject to pressure or any form of politicization by their powerful members.

82. Developing countries suffered most from the adverse effects of climate change, and Nicaragua called for urgent action, such as the promotion of renewable energy and reforestation. Despite the financial constraints it faced, her country was bearing the costs of adaptation and mitigation measures, but emphasized that funding should come from those with historical responsibility. Nicaragua had also called for a world policy for compensation based on international law and taking into account the principle of damage

recovery, and would continue to work within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Noting that disaster risk reduction was an important development issue, she said that the international community should increase its support of disaster reduction efforts in developing countries, including through the provision of technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity and resilience-building programmes.

83. Nicaragua reaffirmed its solidarity with the State of Palestine, and the right to development of peoples under occupation. It therefore supported the inclusion of the annual resolution concerning Palestine and resolutions pertaining to the occupied Arab territories.

84. **Ms. von Steiger Weber** (Switzerland) said that the Second Committee needed to adapt in order to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals were implemented. It should provide normative guidance on global sustainable development challenges, offer normative and operational guidance for the United Nations operational system, and ensure follow-up for international conferences without similar processes while avoiding duplication, including in the case of the high-level political forum and the forum on financing for development follow-up.

85. Switzerland attached particular attention to consideration of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. With the large number of actors involved and the limited resources available, efforts must be made to strengthen coherence and synergies in the United Nations development system.

86. Switzerland recognized the need for global commitment and accelerated action to address global water governance. It therefore supported the establishment of a coherent global water architecture and a United Nations intergovernmental body to achieve specific water-related goals as recommended by the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. Switzerland also called for the timely implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and action to ensure consistency with other recently adopted regulatory frameworks.

87. The private sector, scientific community and civil society must be involved in action to build more resilient societies. As discussed at the World Humanitarian

Summit, collaboration between humanitarian and development actors should be improved, and Switzerland would welcome greater involvement of development actors in situations of protracted displacement.

88. At the recent high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, concrete measures to address large flows of refugees and migrants had been agreed and the important contribution of migrants to sustainable development had been reaffirmed. However, the targets of the 2030 Agenda relating to migration were far from being achieved. Switzerland would participate actively in the development of a global compact for migration and work to strengthen coordination and cooperation on migration in the United Nations, in particular through the International Organization for Migration, which had recently joined the United Nations system. It would also seek to clarify the future of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

89. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives) said that his Government aimed to make the Maldives a resilient, diversified and high-income economy. However, challenges remained, including access to finance for large-scale infrastructure projects and insufficient domestic resource mobilization.

90. The economy, culture and identity of the Maldives and the livelihood of its people were intrinsically linked to the oceans. His country therefore looked forward to participating in the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

91. Noting that the negative impacts of climate change threatened to erode development gains, particularly in small island developing States, he said that more attention should be given to the vulnerability of economies when assessing countries for graduation. Investment in adaptation measures in the Maldives was high, placing an additional burden on budgets that were already stretched. His country therefore welcomed the Paris Agreement.

92. In order to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, his country had initiated a renewable energy investment programme that was on track to provide up to 30 per cent of the daytime peak load of electricity in all inhabited islands by 2018. It was striving to create

an enabling environment for private sector participation through such initiatives as net metering. Energy efficiency components would shortly be incorporated in the national building code.

93. It was important to ensure adequate linkages between the 2030 Agenda and such agreements as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement and the SAMOA Pathway, which was the guiding framework for sustainable development in small island developing States. Efforts must also be made to ensure that the reporting burden on small States with limited resources was not too high and to provide support for countries with limited statistical capacities.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.