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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 4th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 10 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Diallo ..... (Senegal)

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General debate (*continued*)

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

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Paik** Ji-Ah (Republic of Korea) said that, despite noteworthy achievements, the uneven progress and growing inequalities with regard to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remained to be addressed beyond 2015. The theme of the current session of the General Assembly, namely “The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage”, was particularly timely.

2. Her delegation welcomed the outcome of the recent special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Goals, and the strong commitment to sustainable development expressed at the inaugural meeting of the high-level political forum on MDG success: accelerating action and partnering for impact. Noting the progress made by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, she emphasized the importance of consistency across all processes relating to sustainable development and the post-2015 agenda. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council would enable the Council to play a central role in forging that agenda.

3. Inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships should involve a variety of development actors, including from the private sector and civil society, as well as creativity, innovation, experience and knowledge. Her delegation looked forward to building further on the Secretary-General’s proposal for a new United Nations partnership facility. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation could serve as a mutual accountability mechanism and contribute to the development of the post-2015 agenda.

4. Her Government had expanded its official development assistance (ODA) by more than 17 per cent in 2012 and had achieved the highest rate of increase among Development Assistance Committee member countries. It was also committed to increasing cooperation with the United Nations development agencies and was collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to use the new community movement (Saemaul Undong) initiative as a model for local development.

5. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt), noting the varying levels of progress made in achieving the MDGs, said that efforts should be made to scale up the global partnership for development — the weakest link in the MDG framework — and to ensure that developed countries fulfilled their commitments.

6. The misplaced emphasis on concessional development assistance, attributable to a donor-centric world view, still prevailed. The post-2015 development agenda should have poverty eradication at its core and address access of developing countries to markets for trade and to technology for development, and the need to create an international enabling environment. The right to development and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should remain the foundation of current and future global development efforts.

7. The increasing calls by some countries to alter the fundamental bases of international cooperation for development on the pretext of the changing landscape were a cause of concern, particularly as developed countries had freely agreed to a number of important commitments in connection with the global development efforts.

8. Turning to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), he welcomed the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which should build on the lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development. Highlighting the importance of technology in enabling developing countries to shift to a more sustainable development path, he noted with appreciation the recommendations concerning the creation of a technology facilitation mechanism to be launched by the high-level political forum to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

9. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Rio+20 outcome document contained an ambitious set of principles intended to complement previous commitments for the benefit of all peoples. He trusted that the high-level political forum on sustainable development would not experience the same difficulties as had the Commission on Sustainable Development and that the necessary political will would prevail.

10. Noting that every effort should be made to end foreign occupation and policies of aggression, he said

that Israel continued to occupy the Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan, draining natural resources. Projects were being implemented with assistance from United States companies contravening Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution 66/225 that reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over the region's natural resources. The Committee should highlight the adverse economic and environmental impacts of foreign occupation and its detrimental effect on the efforts of developing countries to confront the global economic and financial crises.

11. Unilateral trade and financial measures were used as a means of coercion against developing countries and he called on countries to implement the international agreements adopted, including at Rio+20, and to comply with General Assembly resolution 66/186.

12. **Mr. Sergeev** (Russian Federation) said that a long-term model of economic development based on real economic growth, the creation of high-quality jobs and structural reforms was necessary to eliminate global imbalances, particularly at a time when the crisis was at risk of deepening, including in developed countries. A number of steps must be taken to improve the economic situation, including coordinated action to secure long-term sources of investment financing, enhance the effectiveness of taxation systems, reduce unemployment and develop international trade.

13. The Group of 20 (G-20) was a key instrument to promote the strong, sustained and balanced growth of the world economy. At the recent Summit in St. Petersburg, participants had underscored their commitment to accelerating achievement of the MDGs and reaffirmed the importance of collective action on the basis of internationally agreed principles laid down in the Millennium Declaration, the Rio+20 outcome document, and the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. Constructive interaction between the G-20 and as many parties as possible, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, was particularly important when the post-2015 global development agenda was being elaborated.

14. The Russian Federation was actively involved in integration efforts in Eurasia aimed at building an effective model of economic cooperation providing for the unhindered movement of goods, services, capital

and labour. A customs union and single economic space, which had a market of 165 million consumers and operated fully in accordance with the principles and standards of the World Trade Organization (WTO), had been established with Kazakhstan and Belarus. Achievements so far included an increase in trade between members of 33.9 per cent in 2011 and 8.7 in 2012, and a reduction of 16.8 per cent in the number of officially registered unemployed between 2011 and 2012. Efforts were continuing to establish by January 2015 a Eurasian economic union that was open to all interested countries and should provide an effective link between Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

15. **Mr. Takahashi** (Japan) said that his Government was committed to accelerating further its efforts to achieve the MDGs, having already set aside \$500 million to address health issues in Africa, and developed training programmes for some 120,000 health and medical service providers. It also intended to make an appropriate contribution to the fourth replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and would be providing over \$3 billion in ODA over the forthcoming three years.

16. The post-2015 development agenda should recognize the importance of economic growth and job creation for the eradication of extreme poverty, and promote universal health coverage in order to meet broader health and medical needs, particularly of women and vulnerable people. Noting the importance of disaster risk reduction, he said that Japan would be holding the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 and trusted that the Committee would support the negotiations on the draft resolution on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. A new global partnership framework involving actors such as emerging economies, the private sector and civil society should also be developed.

17. His delegation welcomed the agreement reached at the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs, including with respect to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, with a view to developing a single framework and a unified set of goals. His Government was committed to sustainable development, and Japan would be hosting three international conferences on that subject before November 2014.

18. **Mr. Ahamed** (India) said that core human development objectives enshrined in the MDGs must be carried over into the post-2015 period. An ambitious push must be made to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. High priority must be given to promoting women's access to economic opportunities, as a key driver of inclusive development. Rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth was needed to promote poverty alleviation, human development and peace and stability. Accordingly, policies to promote growth and a development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round should be sought, and meaningful steps taken to reform institutions for global economic governance.

19. One of the key reasons for the mixed record of MDG achievement was the failure of the global partnership to support the efforts of the most vulnerable developing countries. The special needs and interests of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserved particular attention. Noting with concern that global aid levels had fallen for two consecutive years, he said that the post-2015 development agenda must be based on a supportive international economic environment and multilateral trade regime, enhanced aid and investment flows, and a strengthened framework for technology transfer.

20. On the issue of sustainable development, he said that the burden of sustainability could not be placed on the poor. Action must be taken to tackle the inequitable consumption of global resources and reduce the unsustainable ecological footprints of developed countries.

21. **Mr. Niyazaliev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that sustainable development could be achieved only if it was a priority focus of national development plans. His country's national strategy for sustainable development for the period 2013-2017 sought to create the conditions for sustainable economic growth and improve the standard of living of the population. Sustainable development objectives post-2015 should include poverty eradication, access to education and health care, a stable economy and employment, agricultural development and food security, energy, governance, peace and stability.

22. In the current global economic climate, special attention should be accorded to countries whose geographical realities made them more vulnerable economically, notably landlocked countries and small island States. The particular challenges faced by

landlocked mountain countries should be taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda and further efforts should be made to advance the development objectives of those countries within the framework of the decisions of Rio+20. He trusted that the draft resolution on sustainable mountain development would receive due support.

23. Some 30 per cent of glaciers in Kyrgyzstan had melted as a result of climate change, and continuation of that trend could create social and economic difficulties in the region as a whole. Work in connection with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should continue, and international financial and environmental organizations should assist countries in Central Asia in moving towards the rational use of water resources, including through the construction of hydroelectric plants as a means to clean and green development. His country was willing to participate in an exchange of best practices concerning water resources management and use.

24. The existence of uranium tailings ponds was a particular problem for his country and could have a negative impact on millions of people in Central Asia. The draft resolution submitted by Kyrgyzstan on the role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia (A/68/143/Rev.1, annex II) had no financial implications, and he trusted that it would receive the support of Member States.

25. **Mr. Khakimov** (Uzbekistan) said that, despite the negative impact of the ongoing global financial and economic crisis, his country's economic growth had exceeded 8 per cent over the previous six years and since 2000 gross domestic product (GDP) had increased by a factor of 3.1. Uzbekistan's economic development model and its policies of diversification, export orientation and import substitution stood out among those of countries of the former Soviet Union and many developing countries.

26. Despite its extensive reserves of hydrocarbon raw materials, his country was taking steps to introduce renewable energy and technologies, thereby contributing to international efforts to ensure sustainable development. With the support of the Asian Development Bank and UNDP, a number of major projects were being implemented, including construction of solar plants and wind turbines and conversion of cars to run on greener fuel.

27. Noting that the effects of climate change were exacerbating resource shortages, he said that the shrinking of the Aral Sea had ecological, socioeconomic and demographic consequences not just for the region but for the entire world. His Government had developed a programme of measures on eliminating the consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea and averting the catastrophe of the ecological systems in the Aral Sea region (A/68/383, annex). It would be allocating approximately \$2 billion to implement its action programme on environmental protection for 2013-2017.

28. Promoting the rational use of water resources was an important issue. However, the plans to construct hydropower stations upstream on the transboundary rivers Amu Darya and Syr Darya would have serious safety implications and social and environmental consequences. Any action to use transboundary watercourses should take into account the interests of all States in the basin and be based on international law.

29. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that the post-2015 development agenda should be based on the experience gained in the implementation of the MDGs and international agreements in the social, economic and environmental areas, notably the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. The decision to hold a follow-up international conference on financing for development would be important for the development financing agenda and the Second Committee must provide clear guidance. As part of its commitment to a global initiative for inclusion, Mexico would be hosting a meeting for governments, civil society and United Nations agencies, programmes and funds to determine the parameters for inclusion and impact on development policies.

30. Mexico welcomed the decision to declare 2015 the year of light and would seek to strengthen partnerships and cooperation between the scientific community and policy makers. It would participate actively in the Climate Summit to be held in 2014 and would continue to implement the agreements reached at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC and at subsequent sessions.

31. Lastly, Mexico supported the work of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and would be actively involved in the Hyogo Framework for

Action (2005-2015) and in the holding in 2015 of a World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

32. **Ms. Nazaire** (Haiti) said that, given the continued existence of disparities, including between the urban and rural environment and least developed and developed countries, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should prevail in the identification of concrete strategies to ensure more equitable distribution of the fruits of growth. The post-2015 agenda should be developed taking account of the decisions of the previous quadrennial comprehensive policy review, notably the need to improve the relevance, coherence and efficiency of United Nations operational activities for development.

33. She hoped that the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in 2014, would facilitate the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. She stressed the importance of sustainable agriculture, food security and fair trade and the relevance of the topic of culture and development to development activities. Sustainable mountain development was also a topic of considerable interest to Haiti. There were complex links between international migration and development, and inclusion of the issue on the agenda of the Second Committee at the current session could have resulted in a robust resolution at a time when migrants' contribution to development in their destination country was beginning to be recognized but when grave violations of their basic human rights continued to be accepted.

34. With regard to financing for development, there were serious problems concerning the way in which international public financing was being channelled. In Haiti, the financing and management of bilateral and multilateral development projects to rebuild the country after the earthquake were being entrusted wholly or in large part to foreign partners or civil society, thus depriving the country of valuable capacity-building opportunities. Her delegation would support the convening of an international conference on financing for development and the establishment of a commission on financing for development to bridge the gap between policies and effective implementation of commitments. The increase in South-South cooperation and the 2008 financial crisis could not serve as a pretext for no longer striving to meet ODA objectives.

35. **Mr. Mashabane** (South Africa) reiterated his country's view that full implementation of the MDGs should remain the key priority on the development agenda for the next two years and should not be eclipsed by the post-2015 debate. The recent special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Goals had provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made and commit to accelerated implementation before 2015. In developing the post-2015 agenda, the different circumstances of the various regions in the world must be taken into account and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should prevail.

36. South Africa welcomed the emerging consensus regarding the need to prioritize poverty eradication both up to and beyond 2015. Although national governments had a responsibility to meet the development needs of their people, international assistance was required to lift millions of people out of poverty and under-development, at a time when the world food crisis and continuing food insecurity were hindering the efforts of developing countries to fight poverty and achieve self-reliance. The Agenda 2063 vision, launched by the African Union, could facilitate the sustainable development of Africa — a continent with unparalleled natural resources. Increased foreign direct investment for Africa should be provided and the Doha Development Round must be concluded in a timely fashion, responding to the needs and priorities of developing countries. New development commitments must build on existing agreements, such as the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, and efforts must be made to ensure that the global partnership for development (Goal 8) remained a focus for future cooperation.

37. Lastly, he highlighted the importance of good governance and the need to reform the international financial institutions to make them representative and responsive to the needs of the developing countries. Good governance should create conditions for mutual accountability for the fulfilment of development commitments made to developing countries and should help to stem tax evasion by the corporate sector and illicit financial flows from developing countries.

38. **Mr. Seksenbay** (Kazakhstan) said that accelerated momentum was required to achieve the MDGs before the target date. Focus should be directed towards those regions that lagged behind as well as towards countries with special needs, including landlocked least developed

countries and small island developing States. Priority areas included poverty eradication, capacity-building, gender equality and transition from relief to development.

39. The post-2015 development agenda should be global in nature but with national implications, people-centred and based on the rule of law and good governance. Kazakhstan would fully support the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and the activities of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. He highlighted the importance of initiatives for technology transfer to developing countries, such as the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, and said that the high-level political forum on sustainable development would provide for greater coordination and address economic, social and environmental dimensions.

40. Finally, Kazakhstan had suggested the creation of G-Global, a virtual, inclusive and transparent platform within the Astana Economic Forum that would give countries the opportunity to exchange views on how to overcome the crisis. He invited all delegations to support the second World Anti-Crisis Conference to be held in Astana in May 2014, and the development of an anti-crisis action plan.

41. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that the development landscape was rapidly changing, with unprecedented global development gains having been made in recent years. Many populations had been lifted out of poverty and a number of MDG targets had been achieved, such as expanding access to drinking water and improving the lives of slum dwellers. However, progress had been uneven and low-income conflict-affected countries still lagged far behind. The United States would continue to work towards the achievement of the MDGs through programmes such as the Global Health Initiative, Feed the Future and the Global Climate Change Initiative as well as through development activities to promote good governance, fiscal transparency and the rule of law.

42. The ambition to make decisive and irreversible gains against extreme poverty over the forthcoming two decades should inspire a continuing commitment to the MDGs and the elaboration of an even more ambitious post-2015 development agenda integrating all aspects of sustainable development. Efforts should be intensified to include the disadvantaged and the marginalized in development progress, narrow the gender gap in health, education and labour markets,

and seek ideas and views from all stakeholders in order to formulate relevant development solutions with meaningful outcomes. New technologies could also provide new approaches to development problems.

43. With the landscape of development finance changing and ODA providing only a modest share of capital flows to developing countries, it was important to look beyond traditional forms of development cooperation assistance and identify new ways of expanding innovative partnerships with the private sector.

44. **Mr. Becher** (Israel), responding to the accusations made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, said that the situation of Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights was preferable to that in Syria itself, where the population was afraid of being bombarded by its own Government. Some Syrian citizens were crossing the border into the Golan Heights to obtain medical treatment provided by the Government of Israel.

45. Although sustainable development must become a global guiding principle and operational standard of the post-2015 development agenda, poverty eradication must remain an overarching goal. Israel had demonstrated its commitment to that goal in the context of sustainable development through the work of its Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), which included the development of a system of early childhood education, the establishment of two mother/baby units in Ghana, and the sharing of drip irrigation technology with farming communities across West Africa.

46. Women and young people were at the core of Israel's development cooperation policies. Gender equality and sexual and reproductive health were essential to sustainable development. In November 2013 his country would be co-hosting the 28th International Women Leaders' Conference, which would focus on ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment were a central theme in the post-2015 development agenda. MASHAV was also actively involved in teaching entrepreneurial skills to young people around the world.

47. **Ms. Perceval** (Argentina) said that the post-2015 development agenda should be people-centred with poverty eradication and social inclusion as priority objectives. Highlighting the progress made with regard to the economic development in the Latin American

region, she said that for the previous 10 years Argentina's economic development model, focused on employment as a vehicle for social inclusion, had led to sustained growth despite the national crisis of 2001 and the global financial crisis in 2008. Her country's experience had shown that a crisis provided an opportunity to promote anti-cyclical policies and intensify international development cooperation to aid recovery.

48. Structural reforms to tackle the current crisis had no theoretical or practical basis, with fiscal consolidation and adjustment having been shown in a study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reduce private consumption and lead to a contraction in GDP. What was required was a structural transformation of the global financial system, a major reform of international financial institutions and an end to unscrupulous speculation.

49. Food security was an urgent global challenge, and efforts should be made to increase food production and access and to strengthen family farming, which generated rural employment and helped to mobilize the local economy. Argentina hoped that the outcome of the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference would include progress on trade in agricultural products.

50. She reiterated the call for a discussion of the structural causes of poverty and said that the discussion of poverty eradication and the construction of inclusive and egalitarian societies, including in middle-income countries, should be situated within a broader context with the focus moving away from assistance for development to cooperation for development, including South-South cooperation. The redistribution of wealth must lie at the heart of the development agenda for the future.

51. **Ms. Ulziibayar** (Mongolia) said that her country's policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable development were being improved and updated in line with the Rio+20 outcome document. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established at Rio+20 had an important role to play in proposing effective financing strategies for sustainable development.

52. Although Mongolia had experienced double-digit growth over the past three years, the economy remained fragile, and was heavily dependent on the import of oil and some consumer goods. Her country

was also facing environmental challenges such as global warming, soil degradation and water shortages. Strategic decisions must therefore be taken to develop a green economy and decrease dependence on mining; areas for action included improving legislation, building infrastructure and supporting the energy sector. A World Economic Forum Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Mongolia had been held in September with a view to exploring future economic pathways for the country and attracting foreign investment.

53. She noted that Mongolia sought to intensify its cooperation in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and said that landlocked countries were more vulnerable to commodity price volatility, climate change and other external shocks that hindered the achievement of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. She agreed that the international community should continue to provide technical, financial and capacity-building assistance to enable landlocked developing countries to alleviate their structural vulnerabilities.

54. **Mr. Zan** (Myanmar) said that, despite the remarkable progress made, much remained to be done to fully achieve the MDG targets, in particular in the least developed countries. New challenges, such as climate change, were hampering the development efforts of weaker economies, and inequalities at the national and international levels posed a threat to political and economic stability. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and trusted that the widely accepted principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities would guide the formulation of sustainable development goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

55. UNFCCC should continue to serve as the primary intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. The international community should provide enhanced financial resources and cooperation to support the adaptation and mitigation efforts of developing countries. Myanmar hoped that the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC would result in the Green Climate Fund becoming operational by early 2014. It also trusted that the Climate Summit to be held in September 2014 would act as a catalyst for action to reduce emissions and strengthen resilience.

56. As the goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action could not be achieved without a favourable external environment, strong international support and cooperation, he joined others in calling on developed countries to ensure an enhanced, predictable and sustainable flow of ODA. In the knowledge that least developed countries bore primary responsibility for their own development, his Government had been undertaking socioeconomic, political and financial reforms with a view to reducing poverty, raising levels of education and health and attracting investment. Mongolia would continue to work closely with development partners to achieve its target of sustained economic growth of 7.7 per cent over the next five years, with the aim of moving towards a knowledge-based economy.

57. **Mr. Pedersen** (Norway) said that work on the health-related MDGs must continue after 2015, since health was a precondition, outcome and indicator for all three dimensions of sustainable development. The post-2015 development agenda should also include a clear and ambitious goal for sustainable energy for all, including the least developed countries, and efforts should be made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance energy efficiency and develop new technologies. Gender equality and women's participation and rights could foster economic development and prosperity and should be a separate priority goal in the post-2015 sustainable development framework. Other elements included human rights, democratic governance, rule of law and justice.

58. Norway was committed to continuing to ensure a high level of development assistance within a framework including good governance, the rule of law and fair distribution. Resource mobilization, both at the international and national levels, must be used in the most effective way for sustainable development.

59. His country noted with satisfaction that the United Nations development system had taken rapid action in response to the call in the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (A/RES/67/226). It agreed that individual agencies needed more core funding and softearmarked funding, and recognized the need for dedicated funding for the "Delivering as One" initiative. He welcomed the agreement on cost-sharing with respect to the resident coordinator system and said that the impact of the reform agenda should be documented through better

organization-wide results and reporting at the country level.

60. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand) said that the post-2015 development agenda must build on the lessons learned from the MDGs, while taking into account the evolving global architecture and challenges; poverty eradication should be the overarching goal. The three dimensions of sustainable development should be integrated to respond to the needs of people at all levels, and Thailand welcomed the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in that regard.

61. The financial crisis and its impact on the achievement of the MDGs had shown that open, fair and inclusive international monetary, financial and trading systems were essential for global economic recovery, sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. The United Nations had a central role to play in enhancing international economic governance and cooperation, and the international community must develop an environment more conducive to market access for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

62. The complex issue of food security must be approached in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. Market access must be enhanced, including through sustainable investment in infrastructure, promotion of agricultural industries and technological advancement, and Member States should address the uncertainty of food markets through existing mechanisms including the Agricultural Market Information System.

63. States should make full use of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and encourage the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda. His Government supported the continuation of the climate negotiations under UNFCCC auspices and looked forward to the Climate Summit to be held in 2014.

64. Long-term sustainable development could not be achieved unless people were placed at the centre of development. His country was striving to narrow the digital divide, and was providing capacity-building for human resources, technical assistance, and science and technology transfer. It was also forging partnerships with other developing countries as part of South-South and triangular cooperation.

65. **Mr. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that the effects of the global financial crisis were still being felt, in particular in developing countries that were experiencing a reduced demand for exports. Donor countries should honour the commitments made in the context of international development goals, including under the Monterrey Consensus, and every effort should be made to conclude the Doha Round without further delay with a view to achieving a more equitable, open and non-discriminatory trading system. Developing countries must be given assistance to implement their international development strategies; action to mitigate effects of climate change such as soil degradation and desertification would help to increase agricultural yield and promote food security.

66. He reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to building on the outcome of Rio+20 and the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and to the continued implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. His country was also actively involved in the empowerment of women. The Third Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the Advancement of Women, held in Qatar in February 2012, had provided a forum for the exchange of experience and reaffirmed the importance of women's empowerment for sustainable development.

67. Israel's repressive actions and discriminatory policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territory were draining the natural resources of the Palestinian people. It was continuing to violate international humanitarian law and its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions was undermining the United Nations. His country reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources and called on Israel to comply immediately with its obligations under international law.

68. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives) said that, with over 80 per cent of its land area lying just over one metre above sea level, confronting climate change was a question that concerned his country's very survival. Almost all the 1,190 islands were experiencing severe coastal erosion and, with tourism and fisheries contributing more than 80 per cent of the country's GDP, any further deterioration in the ecosystem would have enormous consequences for the population. The adverse impacts of climate change placed additional burdens on national response and development systems

and hindered significantly the development aspirations of Maldives. Noting that his Government was currently spending over 27 per cent of its national budget on building resilience to climate change, he said that further efforts should be made to increase the financial resources available to help the most vulnerable countries with climate change adaptation. His country was concerned that many development partners had failed to meet their ODA commitments and at the slow progress being made with regard to the establishment of the Green Climate Fund. Additional financial resources should be provided to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

69. As regards sustainable development, all Member States should ensure that the high-level political forum provided a strong and focused platform. In addition to poverty eradication, sustainable development goals should include issues of importance to small island developing States, such as water resources, oceans, equitable access to health care and energy security.

70. The absence of a definition of small island developing States was preventing those countries from receiving special treatment from development organizations and donor countries. Those States should be given full recognition as a special category of countries. As things stood, the use of distorting indices such as GDP per capita and the criteria for graduation from least developed country status did not take into account the development realities of small island nations, such as their vulnerability to natural disasters and external market shocks, and difficulties in achieving economies of scale.

71. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that progress towards achieving the MDGs should be accelerated and the political commitments made at the recent special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Goals must be followed by tangible action at the national and international levels. An inclusive post-2015 development agenda with clear and attainable goals should be developed to sustain future efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and improve the well-being of all peoples. Steps must be taken to ensure that initiatives launched after Rio+20, such as the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing were fully integrated and generated renewed political will.

72. The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration provided a strong conceptual framework for future discussions on financing for development. While the failure of developed countries to deliver on their ODA commitments must be tackled, steps should also be taken to promote resource mobilization at the domestic and international levels, including through foreign direct investment. His delegation would support a follow-up international conference on financing for development before the end of 2015. It hoped that the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference would make progress in critical areas including trade facilitation, agricultural negotiation and development.

73. Welcoming the focus of the current Presidency of the Group of Eight on tax, trade and transparency, he said that efforts should be made to strengthen the national capacity of developing countries to curb illicit financial flows and tax evasion and avoidance, while creating an environment where remittances had greater sustainable development impact.

74. Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts should focus on the provision of additional, adequate and predictable financial resources; modalities for financing the Green Climate Fund; and technology transfer to enable African countries to address climate change more effectively. The polluter pays principle and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be implemented in a meaningful manner.

75. **Mr. McLay** (New Zealand) observed that many of the issues proposed for inclusion in the post-2015 agenda, such as sustainable development goals, were the subject of draft resolutions before the Committee. New Zealand looked forward to the Committee's decisions, including on the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Samoa in 2014 and the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Japan in 2015.

76. With regard to macroeconomic policy questions, he said that the position of the world's most disadvantaged could be improved if a framework was created allowing them to trade more effectively. New Zealand, a major agricultural producer, was acutely aware of the opportunities and challenges associated with the sustainable use of natural resources for agricultural development and was taking the lead in areas where it could make a difference, for example

through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

77. One important task of the Committee was to ensure that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system was on track.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*