



General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
11 November 2015

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 13th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 19 October 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Logar (Slovenia)

Contents

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development

- (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity
- (g) Harmony with Nature
- (h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

15-18043 (E)



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



The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Mr. Lykketoft** (Denmark), President of the General Assembly, said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented a truly transformative shift from business as usual. Over the next 15 years, the entire international community would have to work relentlessly to move from commitments in New York to action on the ground in such areas as addressing the root causes of poverty, exclusion and inequality; building inclusive, robust and resilient economies; empowering women; and protecting the natural world. The focus on implementation and results must permeate all aspects of the Organization's work. The Second Committee could, for example, ensure that some of the crucial features of the Agenda were respected by reflecting on how policies and actions could ensure integrated approaches to implementation, advance synergies, manage possible trade-offs across the three dimensions of sustainable development, and address the universality of the Agenda. It could also help to ensure that the concrete deliverables in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda were moved forward rapidly and meaningfully. A revitalized global partnership with strengthened multi-stakeholder engagement would be central to delivering financing from all sources, capacity-building, as well as technology support and facilitation. And it would require actions to establish the global infrastructure forum and to give effect to the new Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The Committee might also need to reflect on its own role and focus as part of the broader United Nations response to the 2030 and Addis Agendas, including in helping the United Nations development system adapt to the new Agenda.

2. The United Nations must also provide a strong multi-stakeholder approach in terms of implementation. Coherence and complementarity must be ensured across the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. While the high-level political forum on sustainable development would play a central role in overseeing follow-up and review processes at the global level, further clarity was required as to how the forum would conduct its work. The 2030 Agenda touched on issues that were often considered in other General Assembly committees or indeed in the plenary Assembly. He commended the Committee for embarking on a discussion of its working methods within the broader context of the 2030 Agenda and

within the context of the revitalization of the General Assembly. He looked forward to the Secretary-General's report outlining critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level.

3. He urged all States to continue working constructively to deliver on their commitment to adopt a universal and meaningful climate change agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. He would be convening a high-level thematic debate to support coherent implementation of commitments relating to sustainable development, climate change and financing in April 2016 with a view to mobilizing action for early progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development

([A/70/214](#), [A/70/215](#), [A/70/215/Add.1](#), [A/70/224](#), [A/70/262](#), [A/70/291](#), [A/70/298](#), [A/70/75-E/2015/55](#), [A/70/137-E/2015/86](#), [A/70/129](#), [A/70/131](#); [A/C.2/70/2](#) and [A/C.2/70/4](#))

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** ([A/70/283](#) and [A/70/422](#))
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** ([A/70/269](#))
- (c) **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** ([A/70/282](#))
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** ([A/70/230](#), section I)
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** ([A/70/230](#), section II)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (A/70/230, section III)

(g) Harmony with Nature (A/70/268)

(h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (A/70/228)

4. **Ms. Wahlström** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction), speaking via video link from Geneva, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/70/282). With economic losses from disasters around the world reaching an average of \$250-300 billion per year, disaster risk represented one of the main challenges for sustainable development. The past year alone had seen two earthquakes in Nepal, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and a number of small-scale disasters. Fortunately, many countries had been able to reduce the number of people killed in disasters because of effective communication and timely evacuation. And the concepts of building resilience and reducing disaster risk were strongly embedded in the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. The adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 constituted an important milestone in a pivotal year for sustainable development. The Framework advocated a shift in focus from managing disasters to managing risk, and highlighted the need for sectoral policies and instruments to reduce risk and strengthen resilience at the local, national, regional and global levels, as well as the need for new collaborative models. It called for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, which necessitated such measures as recording disaster losses, defining risk baselines, hazard mapping and risk assessment. Monitoring, review and coordinated implementation of all the other post-2015 frameworks would be essential for success. Other critical elements included an all-of-society engagement; a clear articulation of responsibilities, with primary responsibility falling on the State and its institutions; accountability for risk creation; and the protection of persons.

6. Existing mechanisms for cooperation, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, would continue to play a vital role in informing the deliberations of the United Nations through relevant policy guidance and follow-up. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience was

currently being revised to support States and other stakeholders in implementing the Sendai Framework. The open-ended intergovernmental working group on terminology and indicators relating to disaster risk reduction would continue its work until the end of 2016; the set of indicators it developed would facilitate the measurement of progress in implementing the Framework and foster coherence between implementation of the Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The Secretary-General's report put forward a number of important recommendations related to the follow-up and implementation of the Sendai Framework, including the development of national and local disaster risk reduction policies, the need to take into account the progress reviews of the Sendai Framework in the context of follow-up processes to the United Nations conferences and summits and in the relevant deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, and the need for States to consider augmenting their financial contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and increasing the assessed regular programme budget to ensure timely, stable and predictable support for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. She acknowledged the large number of donors that had provided critical support to and voluntary financing for the work of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and expressed particular appreciation the Government of Japan for hosting the three world conferences relating to disaster reduction and the Government of Switzerland for hosting the meetings of the preparatory committees for those conferences. Lastly, she called on all Member States to provide adequate and flexible support for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

8. **Ms. Figueres** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), speaking via video link from Bonn, introduced her report on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Lima in 2014 (A/70/230, section I). In pursuance of the mandate from the Lima Conference, a draft negotiating text had been circulated to all parties by February 2015, well in advance of the May 2015 deadline. Since then, parties had been engaged in enriching that text for adoption at the Paris Climate Change Conference. She was confident that, despite increasing political difficulties, parties remained deeply committed to achieving an ambitious result in Paris.

9. Noting that the Lima Conference (twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties) had recalled the importance of national climate change plans, she said that to date, 153 intended nationally determined contributions, covering 86 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, had been communicated by parties to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She expressed particular appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its assistance in that regard. Further submissions would be welcome, although it was now too late for the secretariat to include them in its November 2015 synthesis report. The Lima-Paris Action Agenda launched at the Lima Conference to accelerate the engagement of society in climate action had advanced considerably; an Action Day would be held during the Paris Climate Change Conference as a show of support for the efforts of non-State actors.

10. As a result of the progress made at the Lima Conference, the current negotiating text made reference to the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts — an issue of critical importance for developing countries. The initial capitalization goal of \$10.2 billion for the Green Climate Fund had been reached, and 17 developing countries had already received initial support from the Fund. Consideration would be given to project proposals before the Paris Climate Change Conference with a view to further expanding support from the Fund. Noting the Lima work programme on gender, she said that work was continuing on gender-sensitive policies in the Framework Convention; gender issues were also being addressed by the secretariat. Lastly, she called on parties that had not yet done so to ratify the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and deposit their instruments of ratification.

11. **Mr. Montiel** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development) introduced seven reports of the Secretary-General. The report of the Secretary-General on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/70/283) contained a number of proposals regarding the role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/70/269) provided an update on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on the partnerships announced. It also contained in annex a summary of the Joint Inspection Unit's contribution to identifying parameters to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. The report of the Secretary-General on the role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development (A/70/262) provided information on a number of projects under way in Member States and set out a number of policy recommendations.

12. The report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/70/75-E/2015/55) examined accelerated efforts within the inter-agency work of the United Nations system to prepare for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and contained a number of conclusions and recommendations. The fifth report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development (A/70/298) examined the current status and trends of agricultural technologies and provided suggestions for transitioning to sustainable agricultural systems. The report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature (A/70/268) focused on the relationship between humanity and nature in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and reported on the fifth interactive dialogue convened in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day. The report of the Secretary-General on the International Day of Forests (A/70/214) provided an overview of activities undertaken in support of the International Day of Forests since its first observance on 21 March 2013.

13. **Ms. Barbut** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa), speaking via video link from Ankara, where the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was taking place, noted with satisfaction the inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals of a target on combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030 (target 15.3). The target would provide a benchmark to evaluate activities on the ground. Recalling the link between desertification, land degradation and drought, and challenges of a global

dimension, such as food security, poverty, climate change adaptation and political instability, she said that the achievement of target 15.3, and restoration of 200 million of the 2 billion hectares of degraded land, would facilitate attainment of the majority of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. She introduced her report ([A/70/230](#), section II), which provided an update on the principal activities undertaken in pursuance of resolution 69/221, including information on the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, held in Cancun, and the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn.

15. **Mr. Takada** (Director, Sustainable Energy for All initiative, Executive Office of the Secretary-General), introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All ([A/70/422](#)), which described the activities and momentum in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 and the institutional and accountability arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals of a goal on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Goal 7) represented a unique, historic opportunity to address a number of development challenges from the energy angle. The report outlined the multi-stakeholder support being sought to attain the three major objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative concerning energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency, which were consistent with the targets under Goal 7. Continued discussion at the ministerial level was required to increase momentum on the subject of energy.

16. **Mr. Dias** (Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity), introducing his report ([A/70/230](#), section III) via video link, said that it covered in detail the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including the adoption of the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development and a number of decisions under the overarching theme “Biodiversity for sustainable development”. Six of those decisions would constitute the Pyeongchang Roadmap for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to be supported by the Bio-Bridge initiative launched at the twelfth meeting. A new

Subsidiary Body on Implementation had been established; gender issues, and peace and biodiversity had been considered; and a Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments had been held in parallel with the meeting.

17. The report also presented key outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and of the first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, and provided information on other programmes and initiatives under the Convention and its protocols. The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda had mainstreamed biodiversity across a range of Sustainable Development Goals; effective implementation and follow-up of its outcomes would be vital. He looked forward to guidance from the General Assembly in that regard, and to consolidating the momentum generated at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties.

18. **Ms. Roudil** (Director, New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), introduced the report prepared by the Director-General of UNESCO on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014 ([A/70/228](#)). Recalling the aim of the Decade, which had been to integrate the principles, practices and values of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning, she said that the final review conducted by UNESCO had concluded that a solid foundation had been laid for education for sustainable development by raising awareness, influencing policies and generating good practice in all areas of education and training. The Decade had facilitated coordination of education for sustainable development in the United Nations system and had led to the mainstreaming of the issue into the work of various United Nations agencies. The World Conference on Education for Scientific Development, held in Japan in November 2014 to mark the conclusion of the Decade, had resulted in the adoption of the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development and the launch of the Global Action Programme, the follow-up to the United Nations Decade setting out five priority action areas. The inclusion of education for sustainable development under target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals provided strong support for the scaling up of activities. The report concluded with three recommendations for future action.

19. **Ms. de Caen** (Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States, United Nations Development Programme), introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores ([A/70/291](#)), which provided an update on the progress made to give effect to the successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning the environmental disaster caused in 2006 by the destruction of oil storage tanks near the Jiyeh power plant in Lebanon. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had indicated that the scientific viability of gathering additional insights through further environmental impact assessments was limited. She noted that the Government of Israel had not assumed responsibility for the compensation requested, and that despite the commitments expressed by the international donor community, no contributions had been made to the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund.

20. **Mr. Rahman** (Deputy Special Representative, World Tourism Organization) introduced two reports of the Secretary-General. The report of the Secretary-General on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism ([A/70/224](#)) gave an update on the implementation of the Global Code, guided by the World Committee on Tourism Ethics. With the inclusion of tourism in three of the sustainable development targets, the wider acceptance and more effective implementation of the principles of the Code were more significant than ever, and the World Committee had made a proposal to transform the Code into a convention. The report of the Secretary-General on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America ([A/70/215](#) and [A/70/215/Add.1](#)), while not as substantive as previous reports, did indicate that tourism was promoting integration and social equity in Central America and was of increasing importance for the economies of those countries, which were strengthening cooperation among themselves and through subregional organizations.

21. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that poverty eradication — the greatest global challenge — was an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries. Although primary responsibility for national sustainable development and poverty eradication lay with each individual country, concerted measures were required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals related to the internationally agreed

poverty-related goals and their targets. The Group of 77 and China considered that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities remained the foundation of global development efforts, and emphasized the international community's critical role in providing adequate and predictable financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing countries.

22. The international community and the United Nations system must give due consideration to the particularities and priorities of small island developing States, as outlined in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and support the efforts of those countries to achieve sustainable development, including through the establishment of genuine and durable partnerships, and coherence between the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. The Group welcomed the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which would facilitate the important task of developing stronger interlinkages between disaster risk reduction, recovery and long-term development planning. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity could also contribute significantly to disaster risk reduction, including by making fragile ecosystems less vulnerable. Noting the close links between desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change, the Group trusted that an ambitious and universal climate agreement would be achieved at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference, since climate change was one of the greatest global challenges, undermining the ability of all countries, especially developing countries, to achieve sustainable development. Lastly, continued efforts should be made to promote education for sustainable development and better equip future generations to live in harmony with nature.

23. **Ms. Strasser King** (Sierra Leone), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the international community must commit itself to meeting the ambitions set out in Agenda 2030 and strive harder to transform the world through the new development paradigm. It should build upon the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and complete any unfinished business in a sustainable manner. To that end, a proactive and effective implementation strategy must be developed, providing for a seamless transition between the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals, and for new approaches covering multi-stakeholder ownership, institutional partnerships, empirical analysis and

knowledge sharing. Resources for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda should be allocated taking into account the needs of countries in special situations, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as of countries emerging from conflict.

24. International partners should further support Africa's development aspirations by meeting in a timely manner all commitments, including with respect to official development assistance, which was a catalyst for development, as well as those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Equally important were the transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, as called for by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and solidarity in the context of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. The United Nations should take into account Africa's development needs and priorities outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063, and efforts must be made to ensure complementarity and synergies with the post-2015 development agenda, which Africa would make every effort to implement.

25. Africa attached high priority to strengthening resilience to natural disasters, and required the support of the international community for the development of early warning systems. Climate change continued to pose a grave threat to Africa's sustainable development; in many African countries, efforts to fight land degradation and desertification, and mitigate the effects of drought were prerequisites for economic growth and social progress. Developed countries must fulfil their commitment to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 for the Green Climate Fund, and Member States should work to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including through the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention. The African Group was committed to the adoption of a legally-binding climate agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference and would work with all parties to that end. It believed that the work of all United Nations funds, programmes and agencies should incorporate the post-2015 development agenda at the earliest possible opportunity.

26. **Mr. Marshall** (Barbados), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that consideration must be given to ensuring that the Second Committee's agenda and methods of work were relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, since macroeconomic realities were deeply intertwined with sustainable development aspirations, sustainable development and macroeconomic policy questions should no longer be two separate items on the Committee's agenda.

27. The full and effective implementation, follow-up and review of the Samoa Pathway were required if small island developing States, which had unique vulnerabilities and priorities, were to embark on a path towards sustainable development. CARICOM called for consideration of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, progress on the partnership framework, and measures to ensure that the concerns of those States were fully integrated in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The high-level political forum on sustainable development must continue to place issues relating to small island developing States on its agenda and provide the necessary monitoring and follow-up, including for the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

28. The adverse impacts of climate change were a perpetual threat and would significantly undermine efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. Only a few weeks earlier, tropical storm Erika and hurricane Joaquin had battered Dominica and the Bahamas. CARICOM reiterated its call for an ambitious, legally-binding, global agreement that addressed the critical issue of loss and damage. In order to be credible, the agreement must include a reference to the objective of limiting the increase in global average temperatures to below 1.5° C, which was the safest target for vulnerable countries, such as low-lying and small island developing States.

29. CARICOM welcomed the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which provided a framework for strengthening national and regional disaster risk reduction programmes. It also remained committed to the undertakings set out in the 2012 Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States, and to the three main goals of the Convention on Biological

Diversity, namely conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

30. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that efforts to eradicate poverty — the greatest challenge facing humanity — had to be sustainable. Least developed countries were not the polluters, yet were suffering the most from major environmental impacts, such as drought, desertification and rising sea levels, and were being driven further into extreme poverty because of the frequent occurrence of natural disasters and the impact of climate change. The strong link between disaster risk reduction, rescue, recovery, rehabilitation and long-term development must be recognized; the least developed countries required urgent assistance in all four priority areas highlighted in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. With the Paris Climate Change Conference around the corner, urgent action was required from all stakeholders on international cooperation and collaboration on sustainable development, including in the area of disaster risk reduction.

31. **Mr. Waheed** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), emphasized that development had to be sustainable and take into account economic, social and environmental dimensions. Implementation of the outcomes of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be streamlined with commitments made under the Samoa Pathway, which constituted the point of departure for all issues relating to small island developing States. Accelerating progress on the unfinished MDGs, in particular on ensuring environmental sustainability, was of vital importance. The Alliance of Small Island States looked forward to receiving a complete report on the comprehensive review of United Nations system support to small island developing States, and hoped that the partnership framework, provided for in the Samoa Pathway, would also be operationalized at the current session.

32. Climate change was the greatest hindrance to the sustainable development of small island developing States, and an existential threat to some of them. Ambitious action was therefore required to achieve a strong, legally-binding agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference to keep the global average temperature increase to below 1.5° C. There was also a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring

and prevention, raise awareness and reduce vulnerability to disasters. Alternative means of measuring development that were better suited to the particularities of small island developing States should be found. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, which had discussed the Samoa Pathway during its session in 2015, should continue devoting time to the implementation of the priorities of small island developing States and to the follow-up and review of the Samoa Pathway.

33. **Mr. Rishchynski** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the bold vision of the 2030 Agenda, which pledged to leave no one behind, could be achieved only through sustainable development. Recalling the factors underpinning sustainable development and poverty eradication, which had been recognized in the 2030 Agenda, he said that gender equality and the need to build resilient, growing economies were of particular importance. He welcomed the focus in the 2030 Agenda on peaceful societies and effective open governance. Noting the vital role of the public sector and of well-functioning, democratic institutions in stimulating private-sector investment, he stressed that efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals must help countries overcome barriers to development. Action to ensure the sustainable management and effective use of natural resources, including Goal 14 on oceans and seas, must complement efforts already under way through other environmental forums. Island States should receive an increase in economic benefits from marine resources, and a renewed commitment must be made to ending subsidies that contributed to overfishing and overcapacity.

34. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda — which linked accountable governance, private sector investment, jobs, growth and taxation and recognized the particular vulnerabilities and financing challenges faced by groups of countries, such as small island developing States and least developed countries — was critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The United Nations system would need to evolve and harness innovation and technological progress, including in the use of satellite imagery, to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Work remained to be done to ensure that the high-level political forum took advantage of the many existing assessment processes to inform its high-level dialogue on sustainable development.

35. **Mr. Cadena** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the 2030 Agenda's focus on poverty eradication was consistent with the strong determination of CELAC States to eradicate extreme poverty, hunger and inequality in the region. To that end, equity, social and financial inclusion, and access to fair credit were essential, together with the support and commitment of the international community, adequate policy space and an enabling global environment. CELAC welcomed the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which would support the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries. The high-level political forum must follow up on the three dimensions of sustainable development, provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue to develop guidance and recommendations for Member States and the United Nations system, and promote system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting, and policy coherence. CELAC was committed to ensuring the success of the high-level political forum in 2016. Efforts should be made to strengthen linkages between the forum, United Nations regional commissions and other relevant regional entities to facilitate action on sustainable development at the national level.

36. CELAC was willing to work with other members of the international community to support small island developing States in achieving the full and effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway. In view of the frequency and intensity of natural disasters in Latin American and Caribbean countries — and of scientific forecasts that the world was on the verge of the strongest El Niño phenomenon in recorded history — disaster risk reduction and to building resilience were particularly important. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was a useful instrument for promoting coherent and integrated work by Member States, United Nations entities and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and management at all levels.

37. Climate change was a serious challenge not only to the achievement of sustainable development but also to the very existence of societies. Although CELAC member States had contributed the least to climate change, they continued to suffer the most from its adverse impacts. CELAC reaffirmed its recognition of the United Nations Framework convention on Climate Change as the primary forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. It called for strengthened

international cooperation to ensure an adequate and timely response, taking into account all the provisions of the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, notably the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in light of different national circumstances. CELAC supported the achievement of an ambitious, comprehensive, effective and legally-binding agreement applicable to all parties at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference, as well as the preparatory process of the Conference and multilateral formal negotiations. It welcomed the initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund; the world's most vulnerable countries should be guaranteed direct access to its funds.

38. CELAC reaffirmed the importance of balanced, efficient and coherent implementation of the three goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Noting the need for changing patterns of production and consumption at the global and regional levels, CELAC welcomed the reference in the 2030 Agenda to the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

39. The successful consolidation of the 2030 Agenda necessitated the establishment of a strengthened and genuine global partnership for development with effective means of implementation supported by tangible action from developed countries. International cooperation must take into account the different development stages, priorities, circumstances and capabilities of developing countries and would require an enabling environment based on the rule of law, transparency and accountability to support national efforts.

40. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that Ecuador had attained 20 of the 21 targets under the MDGs owing, to a large extent, to unprecedented levels of public investment. Those Goals had focused on basic needs and did not address profound social and economic disparities; however, Ecuador aimed to ensure a dignified life for its people, beyond mere survival. As its Constitution recognized the rights of nature, Ecuador was pleased that the Sustainable Development Goals took into consideration the need to care for the planet. Citing the concept of “Sumak Kawsay” or of good living in peace and harmony with others and the natural environment, he said that current patterns of consumption and production could not be reconciled

with the biophysical limits of the planet, and that core countries should rethink their own development models.

41. Noting that energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions were directly proportional to the income levels of countries, he said that Ecuador supported the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. His country would be investing more than \$5 billion by 2016 to double its supply of renewable energy. It was committed to the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and to the new people-centred, rights-based Agenda.

42. **Mr. Bamrungphong** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), emphasized the need for cross-sector integration and greater policy coherence across the United Nations system to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which must build on the unfinished business of the MDGs. While ASEAN had made considerable progress in connection with those Goals, including in the areas of poverty reduction, primary education enrolment and maternal mortality, much remained to be done. ASEAN would engage actively and constructively with the United Nations and the international community in striving to implement the ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda.

43. The ASEAN Community, which comprised political, security, economic and sociocultural dimensions, would be formally established at the ASEAN Summit in November, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which envisaged ASEAN as a rules-based, inclusive and people-centred community, would also be adopted. He drew attention to four key areas where the integration of the ASEAN Community could complement the 2030 Agenda and contribute to sustainable development. First, ASEAN integration promoted cultural diversity, shared values and a culture of peace, tolerance and moderation. Dialogue and preventive diplomacy were also promoted through such mechanisms as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit. Second, the establishment of an open, inclusive and market-driven economy was essential for employment creation, trade and investment, and would contribute greatly to eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities in the region. The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community would help to integrate the region, which had seen a seven-fold increase in intra-ASEAN trade since 1993, into the

global economy. Furthermore, enhanced connectivity and transport linkages would help countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to enjoy the benefits of increased access to global markets and achieve sustainable economic growth. Third, ASEAN integration placed high priority on enhancing cooperation concerning disaster risk reduction and climate resilience. He drew attention in that regard to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, which complemented the work of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries. ASEAN, which looked forward to the adoption of an ambitious, agreed legally binding outcome applicable to all parties at the Paris Climate Change Conference, was also seeking to strengthen the region's resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change through the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative and the Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change. Fourth, economic integration of ASEAN would not only contribute to South-South cooperation, but would also complement North-South cooperation.

44. Lastly, ASEAN, which was seeking to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations, particularly its specialized agencies, in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Vision 2025, would continue to strengthen the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations.

45. **Mr. Mangisi** (Tonga), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that unique and particular vulnerabilities of the Pacific small island developing States constrained the ability of those States to meet goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. The Pacific small island developing States looked forward to the launch of the partnership framework outlined in the Samoa Pathway. The partnership framework should consist of an active committee composed of small island developing States and their partners, and provide for multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues to follow up existing partnerships, highlight successes and discuss lessons learned. Other important outcomes of the Samoa Pathway must also be fully implemented. The high-level political forum must devote adequate time to the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations system support to such States was eagerly awaited.

46. The Pacific small island developing States welcomed the inclusion of oceans and seas in the universal and ambitious 2030 Agenda and supported the triennial global oceans and seas global conferences process, which would commence in 2017 in Fiji. Gravely concerned that greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise, they looked forward to the adoption at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference of an ambitious, legally-binding and comprehensive international climate agreement, limiting the global average temperature increase to well below 1.5° C.

47. Turning to financing for development, he said that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda — which reaffirmed that small island developing States remained a special case and were in need of targeted support — was critical. Reduction of harmful fishing subsidies and implementing partnerships for sustainable energy were among the issues that would have to be addressed. The Pacific small island developing States looked forward to the elaboration of a process to follow up on the progress made and address gaps in implementation. Lastly, recognizing that the important contribution that sustainable tourism made to poverty eradication, he said that the Pacific small island developing States welcomed proposals to declare 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.