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**Second Committee****Summary record of the 16th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 October 2015, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Vice-Chair) ..... (Paraguay)**Contents**Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

- (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 (*continued*)
- (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 (*continued*)
- (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)
- (g) Harmony with Nature (*continued*)
- (h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (*continued*)

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

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

**Agenda item 20: sustainable development (continued)** (A/70/75-E/2015/55, A/70/129, A/70/131, A/70/137-E/2015/86, A/70/214, A/70/215, A/70/215/Add.1, A/70/224, A/70/262, A/70/291, A/70/298 and A/70/410; 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 (continued)** (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 (continued)** (A/70/269)
- (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (continued)** (A/70/282)
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (continued)** (A/70/230)
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (continued)** (A/70/230)
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (continued)** (A/70/230)
- (g) Harmony with Nature (continued)** (A/70/268)
- (h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (continued)** (A/70/228)

1. **Ms. Byaje** (Rwanda) said that a smooth transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the more complex Sustainable Development Goals would require States to integrate the latter into national strategic plans; strengthen capacity-building, collect better data and involve all actors in tracking progress. In addition to mass sensitization campaigns on the new

Goals, parliamentarians in her country were actively integrating them at the national level and would have an important oversight role during their implementation. Media, particularly social media, had been instrumental in raising awareness of the post-2015 development agenda.

2. Key enabling factors for sustainable development were national ownership, including adapting the Sustainable Development Goals to reflect national priorities and challenges; leadership, inclusive governance and citizen participation; and zero tolerance for corruption.

3. The Sustainable Development Goals required adequate means of implementation in the form of domestic resource mobilization and greater self-reliance to avoid dependence on unpredictable funds from external sources. Furthermore, the private sector, Governments and development partners should invest in infrastructure, energy and industrialization while boosting trade and employment, especially for young people and women.

4. The environmental dimension of sustainable development required coordinated efforts to control climate change, increasingly frequent natural disasters and reduced biodiversity. Developed countries should therefore increase their contributions to the Green Climate Fund so that developing countries, especially the most vulnerable ones, could mitigate and adapt to climate change and invest in the transition to clean energy. The upcoming twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should raise the level of ambition in the area of emissions reductions and lead to a binding outcome.

5. **Mr. Suh Sangpyo** (Republic of Korea) said that only an efficient monitoring and accountability framework would guarantee the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2016 session of the high-level political forum should therefore provide strategic political guidance based on evidence, science and knowledge exchange. The forum also required a solid relationship with other United Nations bodies and with the Global Sustainable Development Report to ensure its successful follow-up and review.

6. Climate change was a significant cross-cutting issue and a new, binding and universal global climate regime was needed to move to a low-carbon economy

and green growth. Accordingly, his Government considered climate action a catalyst for sustainable development and would continue to support both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and complementary initiatives to put economies on the road to low-carbon and resilient development. Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which focused on peace, justice and strong institutions, was a prerequisite for the success of the Goals as a whole and would advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

7. **Mr. Munungi** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that climate change would have an unprecedented negative impact on Africa, even though it was responsible for few greenhouse gas emissions. Mean temperatures in Africa were already at all-time highs. A universal, legally binding agreement was therefore needed to limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

8. The outcome of the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference should reflect commitments made by both developed and developing countries. His Government was committed to making sacrifices that did not prejudice development and had therefore drawn up mitigation measures in the areas of agriculture, forestry, energy and transport, as well as adaptation measures.

9. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was home to nearly 10 per cent of all the tropical forests in the world and, as such, was the green lung of Africa. His Government had put in place a strategy to maintain the percentage of forest cover at 63.5 per cent of his country's surface area as of 2030, while mainstreaming the fight against deforestation. However, unconditional support for those efforts from the international community would also be needed. In that context, he welcomed the recent launch of the Central African Forest Initiative and encouraged the participation of other donors therein.

10. **Ms. Al Ateibi** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country had been focusing on sustainable development ever since it had come into existence over four decades previously, and allocated a higher percentage of its gross domestic product (GDP) to official development assistance (ODA) than any other State. Gender equality and women's empowerment were enshrined in its Constitution. Women were well represented on the boards of directors of its major

corporations, and over 70 per cent of college graduates in the United Arab Emirates were women. In 2014, her Government had adopted a green growth strategy, the first of its kind in the Middle East. It had also instituted the annual Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week to raise international awareness of the importance of green technologies.

11. The United Arab Emirates was a pioneer in renewable energy, and had contributed more than US\$ 750 million of ODA to renewable energy projects in developing countries. It was also a leader in water conservation technologies, including solar energy for desalinization. Her country had made outstanding progress in human development indicators relating to children's health and education and was a major contributor to children's education in developing States, as well as an active member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. It had also achieved considerable progress on infrastructure development, including for information and communications technology, through effective cooperation between the public and private sectors.

12. **Mr. Ndong Ella** (Gabon) said that his country had incorporated the main Sustainable Development Goals into the Strategic Plan for an Emerging Gabon, which aimed to transition swiftly to a national economy with high value-added industries and services. The Plan was currently focused on competitiveness factors, such as capacity-building and infrastructure development, including in the digital and energy sectors. In the short term, additional efforts would be made to improve the performance of the basic education system so that more qualified and employable young people could enter the workforce.

13. His Government continued to pay due attention to the development of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and fish farming, and food security was being promoted through a recently launched national programme.

14. Gabon had been the first African country to submit its intended nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It had also submitted an action plan ahead of the Paris Climate Change Conference, which contained not only a commitment to reducing national greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent by 2025, but also an update on climate-related short- and medium-term development strategies.

15. The basic principles of sustainable development had been set out in a law, enacted in 2014, which took into account the need to balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Furthermore, the new environmental code, adopted in July 2014, aimed to improve the management of forest, land and sea resources and to protect the environment while pursuing economic activity. An agency to monitor land and sea resources by satellite had also recently been established.

16. Africa and South America were the lungs of the planet and had a fundamental role to play in the context of climate negotiations. His country would continue to work with the international community towards the adoption of a universal and binding agreement to limit the temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius. To that end, his country had initiated consultations between African countries and the countries of the Union of South American Nations that were expected to continue during the climate change negotiations in Paris.

17. Biodiversity was being threatened by poaching and illicit trafficking in protected species, which had also caused real harm to the livelihoods of local communities. His delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/314 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife and called for the speedy implementation of the recommendations contained therein. However, strengthening legal proceedings and enforcing laws would not suffice. It would also be necessary to engage with local communities, especially the victims of poaching, to ensure that their rights were effectively restored.

18. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that the Sustainable Development Goals should be mainstreamed into national development strategies, taking different local realities into account, in order to ensure national ownership. While underscoring the need for a revitalized global partnership, it was also important to strengthen and coordinate follow-up and review of the Goals at all levels.

19. A revitalized United Nations system could help Governments to address the adverse impacts of climate change, such as drought, desertification and natural disasters, and to conserve biological diversity and the ecosystem. Developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and the small island developing States, were the most vulnerable to climate-related

hazards and natural disasters. Therefore the world must reach a binding and robust agreement on climate change at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

20. His country was implementing a Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy, which focused not only on climate change mitigation and adaptation, but also on sustainable land management, the expansion of renewable energy, the use of energy-efficient technologies and the prevention of land degradation, desertification and deforestation. Despite a negligible contribution to global warming, Ethiopia had demonstrated its commitment to emissions reduction by submitting its intended nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

21. Given that business as usual would not lead to inclusive and sustainable development, the international community must fulfil its development promises and take advantage of the opportunity for a revitalized global partnership under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In that context, his delegation stressed the need to fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund by jointly mobilizing US\$ 100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources; harness the potential of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism; and ensure continued implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity.

22. **Mr. Tobin** (Costa Rica) said that developing and middle-income countries, which had done little to cause climate change, were bearing the brunt of its effects and should be supported. The needs of countries in special situations, particularly small island developing States, must be taken into account pursuant to the 2030 Agenda, and his delegation supported the full implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the creation of a small island developing States partnership framework.

23. Recent natural disasters affecting countries near to Costa Rica had demonstrated that disaster risk reduction would be extremely important for mitigating major development setbacks. Accordingly, his delegation called for the full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Nansen Initiative and the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action. While the economic impact of climate change would be significant, its impact on human lives would be graver still.

24. Forests were the lungs of the planet, and forest coverage was now above 50 per cent of the area of Costa Rica, having recovered from a low of 21 per cent in 1987. A legally binding instrument for forests was needed to complement advocacy efforts for the sustainable management of forests at all levels.

25. Sustainable tourism and the protection of natural resources were mutually reinforcing, giving impetus to cooperation between the private and public sectors. As tourism accounted for around 5.5 per cent of his country's GDP, his delegation welcomed General Assembly resolution 68/207 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America, and requested support for it from Member States.

26. He looked forward to the implementation of targets 8.9 and 12.b of the Sustainable Development Goals, on the promotion of sustainable tourism, job creation and local culture and products, and the monitoring of such tourism, and further invited the World Tourism Organization to continue efforts to implement the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

27. While land degradation would impede sustainable development and threaten food security in some countries, land rehabilitation would have positive effects, especially for the most vulnerable peoples. The closely related issue of biodiversity was also very important in Costa Rica. Instead of working to generate wealth at the expense of the environment, people must live in harmony with nature and rejoice in the many services it provided. Calling for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, he looked forward to continued inclusive and participatory work at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

28. **Mr. Percaya** (Indonesia) said that international cooperation would be required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that context, steady and equal growth was fundamental, and employment opportunities would play a key role at the national, regional and global levels. Inclusive and democratic global economic governance structures, with equal representation of all regions and country groupings, would also be critical.

29. Sustainable development would also require transformation. To that end, the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development should be linked to the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable

Consumption and Production Patterns in order to raise awareness and ensure a more efficient use of resources.

30. While the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the high-level political forum were all platforms for the means of implementation, the Second Committee should also serve as a platform for mobilizing action. The discussions on the Committee's working methods were therefore welcome. Policy coherence between the Second and Third Committees and the Economic and Social Council would support integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

31. In the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, he stressed that climate change must be tackled in a concerted and integrated manner under a universal climate change agreement that also integrated disaster risk reduction.

32. Lastly, sustainable tourism could contribute to the preservation of cultures and environmental conservation. Since it also promoted peace and mutual understanding, tourism should be mainstreamed into national and international policy discussions and into the United Nations agenda. His country therefore supported the draft resolution to declare 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

33. **Mr. Dennis** (Liberia) said that the pledge that no one would be left behind, as set out in the 2030 Agenda, should serve as the Committee's mantra and remind it of the work that lay ahead. In working to meet their current needs, countries must not jeopardize the future. It was clear that the various development programmes considered in the context of the recent Africa Week 2015, held at United Nations Headquarters, shared direct links with the 2030 Agenda in that all of the programmes sought to eradicate poverty, narrow inequalities and secure the planet for future generations.

34. As the Technology Facilitation Mechanism had been agreed by all countries in the context of financing for development, his delegation looked forward to meaningful actions ensuring the transfer of technologies needed by developing countries.

35. The operational activities of United Nations agencies must address developmental challenges facing least developed countries and small island developing States. Furthermore, assistance from the United

Nations system must continue to address all three dimensions of sustainable development in a targeted and effective manner.

36. His country had recently submitted its intended nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, demonstrating its commitment to reduce emissions by 15 per cent by 2030. In closing, he emphasized that the outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference must include legally binding commitments of countries to address climate- and environment-related issues.

37. **Mr. Giorgio** (Eritrea) said that his delegation welcomed the integration of the challenges of desertification, land degradation and drought into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, his arid country was affected by cyclical droughts and particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including climate variability.

38. To address those challenges, his Government had adopted a development and strategic plan for 2014 to 2018 for the sustainable management of its natural resources. It had also acceded to several international environmental instruments.

39. Action to combat desertification, land degradation and drought should be country-owned with strong community participation. Accordingly, his Government had been conducting campaigns to raise awareness and mobilize every able person to ensure food security and end poverty, including through elected village-level committees tasked with accelerating the implementation of development programmes. Communities, women, students, civil society organizations, religious leaders and the army were regularly mobilized to work on soil and water conservation and afforestation. Furthermore, green clubs had been established in schools. Eritrea was a member of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative and looked forward to a successful outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference.

40. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that her Government had recently submitted its intended nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition to efforts to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, her Government had been mainstreaming climate change issues into national development programmes and working with partners to formulate strategies on poverty reduction, education,

information technology, tourism, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy efficiency, climate change and sustainable development.

41. Now that a new generation of development goals had been agreed at the United Nations, national and international policies and programmes needed to be updated, while adapting the global agenda to national contexts, with a greater emphasis on the development of human capital. Better use of the potential of the private sector could improve access to education and tackle financial illiteracy. Young people in Armenia had been working with various stakeholders, including members of the diaspora, on education and innovation projects such as the Kolba Labs initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

42. Her Government had been exploring sustainable partnerships that went beyond remittances and monetary contributions by fostering the links between well-managed migration and development. A new approach to job mobility and circular labour migration would enhance the potential for development in both sending and receiving countries. As a landlocked country facing serious structural constraints, Armenia viewed mobility and connectivity, including the efficient movement of people and goods, improved transportation and modernized border crossings, as central to its sustainable development.

43. The ambitious goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda should be matched by commensurate financing and policies that facilitated investment sustainability. International financial institutions were working with Armenia to find bankable public-private projects, in particular in the area of infrastructure. In the absence of transit opportunities to the east and west due to a land blockade, Armenia was investing in a north-south road corridor to facilitate access to international trade routes and markets. The corridor included a new railway that would provide the shortest route between ports on the Black Sea and others on the Persian Gulf, in addition to connecting countries in South-East Asia to Europe. Armenia was working with development partners to find new solutions for financing infrastructure in lower-middle-income countries.

44. Regarding investment in infrastructure, the Vienna Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries for the Decade 2014-2024 should be integrated into the comprehensive follow-up and review framework involving multiple stakeholders,

including transit countries. Disaggregated data would be essential for that framework and the global indicators for monitoring progress should be finalized. Armenia was working towards that goal as a member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

45. **Mr. Chinyonga** (Zambia) said that eradicating absolute poverty was the greatest challenge currently facing the world. While MDGs had widely contributed to reducing poverty, empowering women and improving people's health and well-being, the benefits of economic growth had not been sufficiently equitable and inclusive to improve the livelihoods of the poorest.

46. Climate variability and change had become major threats to sustainable development in his country and would be prioritized in its seventh national development plan, covering the period 2017 to 2021. His country's intended nationally determined contribution, submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, included adaptation and mitigation components of long-term climate resilience and low-emissions development, in line with Zambia's priorities and circumstances as a least developed country.

47. In the context of transitioning from MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals, it was imperative to define specific development planning markers and monitoring and evaluation systems. His delegation looked forward to the framework of indicators to be provided by the United Nations Statistical Commission by March 2016.

48. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that the work of the Second Committee on sustainable development had thus far been dominated by its environmental dimension, to the detriment of the economic and social dimensions, and that the Committee should not be tempted to organize its entire agenda around sustainable development simply because of the inclusive nature of that topic. Moreover, the role of the Committee must be defined and repositioned within the architecture for monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

49. His country supported the position of the Bali Action Plan on historical emissions and also that of the African Union, which called for a climate agreement in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in order to take into account the degree of development of each country.

50. It was crucial to operationalize the Green Climate Fund and, while appreciative of the contributions made so far, his delegation reiterated the necessity of guaranteeing US\$ 100 billion per year to assist developing countries to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Delays in doing so would only increase the burden on the developing countries, particularly African countries, which were paying the highest costs for global warming although they had contributed the least to it.

51. Despite its natural potential, Cameroon, like other African countries, was unable to escape desertification, drought and ecosystem degradation. Rising temperatures and reduced rainfall meant less fertile arable lands and shrinking pastoral areas. All soil functions were therefore compromised, which impacted food security, nutrition, human health, economic activity and ecosystem biodiversity.

52. Nevertheless, the integration of sustainable development principles into national policies had gradually yielded tangible outcomes: a cleaner environment and the conservation of protected areas. All projects now required environmental and social impact studies, and environmental permits were also a prerequisite.

53. Sustainable management of forests and fauna was of particular importance to Cameroon. Increasing the area of managed forests was helping to preserve biodiversity. Forests covered 42 per cent of Cameroon and were part of the Congo Basin, the second largest forest area in the world. Such forests played a crucial role in combating climate change through carbon sequestration.

54. His Government had been involved in managing forests, creating forest reserves, conducting reforestation campaigns and establishing forest management units, whose objective was to preserve the ecological, environmental and social functions of forests. In addition to projects reversing deforestation, his Government had undertaken programmes to reduce the stress on plant cover, prevent desertification in the Sahel region, restore mangrove areas and improve access to renewable energy. Regrettably, the strong support within Cameroon for such programmes was not always matched by an appropriate level of international solidarity. Acting in the common interest of all countries, Cameroon had courageously renounced full utilization of the resources necessary for its

development. His delegation, therefore, called on the international community to increase its financial and technological support to his country for the stewardship of its forests.

55. **Mr. Mamani Paco** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and the Defence of Life, recently organized by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, had adopted a Declaration to be presented to the Paris Climate Change Conference. The Declaration contained the following proposals: support for "living well" as an alternative form of coexistence that would eradicate capitalism and revive the traditional knowledge of indigenous and aboriginal campesino peoples and people of African descent; support for peoples still suffering from colonialism, to help them free themselves from financial constraints and political interference; a global meeting of peoples and social movements to consolidate "living well"; a resolution for discussion in the General Assembly on the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth with a non-mercantilist and non-anthropocentric approach; the lifting of patent protection on goods that served the public interest related to immediate climate change adaptation and mitigation actions; technology transfer platforms accessible to all peoples; measures to promote clean technologies, knowledge exchange and the use of natural resources to mitigate pollution; a network of regional organizations studying the climate and climate change; an independent international court for climate justice; reciprocal agreements and alliances between peoples and their Governments to defend life and prevent the commoditization of Mother Earth; a fund to enable developing countries to pay the debts of capitalism; an interreligious celebration on Mother Earth Day; and a revival of the Social Preparatory Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

56. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that, for many years, development had been understood as ever greater economic growth and wealth accumulation, often coming at the expense of the environment and human life itself. In that unsustainable model, human beings were reduced to tools for producing ever larger profits for only a small group, and the Earth was treated as an inexhaustible resource to be exploited. In his recent address to the General Assembly, Pope Francis had insisted that the necessary paradigm shift in development thinking

should be guided by a perennial concept of justice. Human beings were multidimensional and thus a multidimensional understanding of poverty and development was needed. Sustainable development plans must secure for persons the minimum spiritual and material means needed to live in dignity and to create and support a family, the primary cell of all social development. In practical terms, that minimum comprised lodging, labour and land, as well as spiritual freedom, which included religious freedom, the right to education and other civil rights.

57. Human development, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the full exercise of human dignity, could not be imposed as a top-down agenda. Trade-based development that was more mutually beneficial, on the other hand, would be a step in the right direction, as long as the poor were allowed to be dignified agents of their own destiny. The laws of competition and survival of the fittest had caused the exclusion and marginalization of masses of people, and would not allow for the long-term survival of either people or the planet. At the same time, the serious ecological crisis affected everyone. The cries of Earth and the cries of the poor were one, and the response demanded an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged and protecting nature. It was time to reject the outmoded culture of excess, exploitation and waste, and to replace it with a culture of solidarity.

58. **Mr. Madiwale** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)) said that disasters threatened sustainable development and disproportionately affected the poorest and most vulnerable. Disaster risk reduction must therefore become a mainstream development activity, with a shift in approach from crisis to risk management.

59. While the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was a welcome development, Governments must ensure that disaster risk was addressed at the local level, for example by building the capacity of local authorities to work with vulnerable groups and local organizations; allocating resources at the community level; and involving affected populations and their leaders in decision-making processes at all levels.



60. The new Framework should also be backed by adequate resources rather than being funded from the humanitarian budget, which led to short and inflexible programmes that could not build long-term community resilience. Donors should raise the percentage of ODA devoted to disaster risk reduction to 1 per cent from 0.4 per cent currently.

61. The new Framework recognized that Governments needed multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to address disaster risk. National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies were willing to help stakeholders come together and discuss their common challenges.

62. The One Billion Coalition for Resilience was the voluntary contribution made by IFRC to the Sendai Framework. Its aim was to help 1 billion people lift themselves out of situations of risk and vulnerability by 2025. Achieving that objective would require a broad-based partnership and all those interested should join the effort.

63. The spirit of goodwill that had led to many multilateral agreements in 2015 should carry over into the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Governments should arrive at a universal agreement that could mitigate climate change and help vulnerable countries and communities adapt to its negative impacts. The Paris agreement should encourage coherence between all processes related to disaster risk and climate resilience; promote the involvement of local communities; set national goals for preserving corals, mangroves and forests, and for the development of agro-forestry and other agro-ecological processes; and include water, sanitation and hygiene measures in adaptation plans, since health and access to basic services were at the core of building climate resilience.

64. With 189 national societies and over 17 million volunteers, IFRC would continue to assist vulnerable communities to cope with natural disasters and adapt to climate change, and called for that work to be scaled up with the involvement of Governments and stakeholders of all kinds.

65. **Ms. Barth** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals would require a shift in investment flows to transform economies and infrastructure, and thereby achieve prosperity for all on a healthy planet.

The relationship between sustainable development, decent work and green jobs was relevant because of the social dimension of sustainable development; and timely because of the hope for a global agreement on climate change at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference.

66. Unemployment had not returned to pre-crisis levels and young people had been especially hard hit. The challenge was therefore not only to create jobs but also to ensure that those jobs were productive and helped to reduce poverty. More than half of the world's workforce was estimated to be trapped in the informal economy, and 780 million working poor survived on less than US\$ 2 a day.

67. Decent green jobs could contribute to poverty eradication and social inclusion. Research by ILO had shown that moving to a greener economy could generate up to 60 million additional jobs in the next two decades. However, those gains would require the right policies, reforms and regulatory frameworks. Policy coherence meant designing country-specific policy mixes. A good policy environment required, for example, macroeconomic and growth policies that promoted sustainable production and consumption patterns and decent jobs; enterprise development policies that fostered innovation and self-employment through the creation of enterprises; social protection floors to ensure that no one was left behind; efforts to encourage a transition from informal to formal employment so that jobs were not only green but also decent; and tripartism and social dialogue to foster consensus-building.

68. Sustainable development required a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy enabled five United Nations agencies, namely, ILO, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, to build synergies, leverage financing and enhance their effectiveness at the country level. New financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund should support programmes that contributed to building skills, social protection, green entrepreneurship and the creation of decent work.

69. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that water scarcity had been identified as a priority issue in the Near East

and North Africa. FAO had assisted Governments in adopting and adapting modern agricultural and irrigation technologies, and in increasing efficiency and productivity in water use. In Africa, frequent droughts had eroded the agricultural sector as well as the coping capacity of poor agro-pastoralist families. FAO was working with Governments to build resilience at the community level in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. In Europe and Central Asia, it was helping family farmers to increase production sustainably, access adequate services and integrate into agricultural and food value chains. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO worked with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to support the regional food security and nutrition strategy of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

70. The FAO Blue Growth Initiative could be a valuable ally for small island developing States in their efforts to increase food security, improve nutrition and adapt to climate change. Initiatives such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism would contribute substantially to bringing together the three dimensions of sustainable development, and thereby work towards fulfilment of the commitments set out in the Sustainable Development Goals.

71. **Mr. Nour** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda illustrated the commitment made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to leave no one behind. Equally important were the other historic agreements that had been reached, such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which would collectively provide an environment conducive to migrants being agents of development. The new agreements also represented a renewed commitment to address the root causes and consequences of migration through policies that facilitated safe, orderly and humane migration.

72. IOM looked forward to working with Member States and development partners to include the human mobility dimension in all substantive areas of the climate change negotiations, leading to an agreement at the forthcoming Paris Climate Change Conference. He hoped that migration would be seen not as a survival strategy of last resort, but rather as a well thought-out

adaptation strategy that would be integrated in the development plans of developing countries.

*The meeting rose at 5 p.m.*