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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 11th meeting

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*Chair:* Mr. Cardi ..... (Italy)  
*later:* Ms. Francis (Vice-Chair)..... (Bahamas)

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

### **Statement by the President of the General Assembly**

1. **Mr. Kutesa** (Uganda), President of the General Assembly, said that it was time to start negotiations on a transformative post-2015 development agenda. Those negotiations could draw on the outcomes of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the recommendations emerging from the structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism. The forthcoming synthesis report of the Secretary-General would also be an important input. However, the immediate priority was to finalize the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations.

2. The post-2015 development agenda should promote integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development with the core goal of eradicating poverty. Its goals should be applicable to all countries while also being adaptable to the particular situation of each country. Its success would depend on the mobilization of adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, technology transfers and capacity-building. Although fulfilling the official development assistance commitments remained critical for the implementation of the development agenda, innovative financing mechanisms should be found, and an enabling environment must be created to support the mobilization and efficient use of financial resources. In that regard, the third International Conference on Financing for Development would be of critical importance. International trade also had the potential to contribute to growth and sustainable development. A successful conclusion to the Doha Round would therefore ensure that developing countries secured a fair share of world trade.

3. Regarding the need to deal with the adverse effects of climate change, he said that the forthcoming conferences to be held in Lima and Paris would be decisive in the collective efforts to commit to a global climate agreement. Efforts to address climate change must be accompanied by efforts to implement the other two Rio conventions concerning biological diversity and desertification. The recent entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol would provide a legal framework for

the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

4. The broad range of development issues covered by the Second Committee was key to achieving greater prosperity and overcoming development challenges. Finally, he stressed the need to promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and to further explore ways to enhance synergies between Member States.

### **Agenda item 19: Sustainable development ([A/69/76](#), [A/69/257](#), [A/69/309](#), [A/69/313](#) and [A/69/320](#))**

- (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/68/970](#), [A/69/79](#), [A/69/312](#), [A/69/315](#), [A/69/326](#), [A/69/379](#) and [A/69/395](#))**
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ([A/CONF.223/10](#), [A/69/314](#) and [A/69/319](#))**
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- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa ([A/69/311](#) and [A/69/317](#))**
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5. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), introducing the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals

(A/68/970), said that the goals and targets proposed therein built on the core agenda of the Millennium Development Goals, while adopting a more universal approach, and broke new ground on such issues as energy, economic growth, and sustainable consumption and production; moreover, there was also a stand-alone goal on climate change. The environmental dimension of sustainable development was reflected in goals on oceans and marine resources, and on ecosystems and biodiversity. The proposed goals thus integrated the economic, social and environmental dimensions and placed core issues of the global commons within a goal and target framework.

6. Introducing the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (A/69/315), he said that it provided a range of options for the mobilization of resources from different sources, for the alignment of private incentives with public goals, and for the creation of a policy framework that encouraged investment while mobilizing public resources. It concluded that there was no simple policy solution and that a basket of policy measures would be needed from which governments would be able to choose appropriate policy combinations. The report also recognized the need for international support, in particular through a strengthened global partnership.

7. Introducing the report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.223/10), he said that its outcome, the “Samoa Pathway”, provided a road map for addressing the challenges faced by those states, and outlined actions that would advance their sustainable development. Numerous partnerships had been launched in Samoa and were an integral part of the conference’s outcome. He also drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to, and implementation of, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/69/319).

8. Introducing 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/69/312), which looked at the various tracks for Rio+20 follow up, he said that it, inter alia, referred to the conclusions of the General

Assembly dialogues on technology facilitation, highlighted the role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and examined how synergies could be achieved across the different functions of the forum.

9. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/69/79-E/2014/66), he said that it identified building blocks for mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development, one being the enabling intergovernmental mandate provided by the Rio+20 Conference. That mandate should be reflected in the strategic plans of individual organizations; efforts to that effect were already under way. The report also made recommendations on the role of environmental and social assessments, and pointed to the role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) in keeping the United Nations system focused on mainstreaming sustainable development.

10. The next report before the Committee was on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations (A/69/314). It described the national and regional activities undertaken to advance the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea and referred to some of the legal and financial implications of designating the Caribbean Sea a special area within the context of sustainable development.

11. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/69/323), he said that while renewable energy technologies were becoming more affordable Sustainable Energy for All much more was needed to make renewable energy self-sustaining.

12. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation (A/69/309), he said that the growing dependence of consuming countries on imported energy had increased cross-border energy trade. Reliable energy transportation to international markets required international cooperation through a framework for developing partnerships.

13. Finally, he said that the report of the Secretary-General on harmony with nature (A/69/322), addressed the social dimension of sustainable development and examined the holistic relationship that indigenous people had had with the Earth since ancient times.

14. **Ms. Wahlström** (Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/69/364), which provided an overview of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, said that its main focus was on the preparatory process leading towards the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The consultation process had underscored a sense of urgency. For the fourth consecutive year, economic losses from disasters had exceeded \$100 billion, demonstrating that ignoring disaster risk was no longer an option.

15. In the deliberations on the pre-zero draft of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction Member States had identified three tiers of risk management: the prevention of new risk; the reduction of existing risk; and the proactive building of resilience. Other issues discussed during the consultations included the need for strengthening of risk governance; financing mechanisms; synergies between the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework, the post-2015 development agenda and the climate change framework; investment in social, economic and environmental resilience; targets and indicators; and international cooperation and global partnerships. The year 2015 would provide an opportunity to reverse current trends of economic losses from disasters. Unless disaster risks were effectively managed the achievements of the sustainable development goals would be undermined.

16. Finally, she drew attention to the recommendations contained in paragraph 88 of the report, which included the recommendation that: Member States should participate in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and in the preparatory process at the highest possible level; that they should give consideration to whole-of-society preparation, inclusiveness and non-discrimination in the development and implementation of plans to manage disaster risk; and that they should consider augmenting their financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction and thanked all Member States for their increasing political support for disaster risk reduction.

17. **Ms. Barbut** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) said that the issues of desertification, land degradation and

drought were now among the world's main concerns. One of the goals identified by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was to secure, by 2020, a commitment to the fight against desertification, and the restoration of degraded lands and soils. Rehabilitation of degraded land; would be the most effective and least costly way to control greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, areas affected by land degradation were also those facing the greatest threats to stability and peace for, when people were impoverished as a result of environmental degradation, were more vulnerable to outside influences, including the call to terrorism.

18. Introducing the report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (A/69/317, chapter II), she recalled that General Assembly resolution 68/213 had recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation. The Assembly had also reaffirmed its resolve to take measures to monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands. It had accordingly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The report reflected the activities of the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat, and the discussions within the framework of the sustainable development goals.

19. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (A/69/311), she recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/195, had declared the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification had been tasked with coordinating Decade-related activities in collaboration with various stakeholders and United Nations bodies.

20. The report highlighted the initiatives taken by the secretariat to raise awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought and it cited various global and regional activities for the launch of the Decade, including publications, web-based outreach; and other special events. She urged the Committee to support the recommendations in the report.

21. **Mr. Dias** (Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)), introducing the report

on the implementation of the CBD (A/69/317, section III) in a recorded statement, said that he was delighted to note that the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Nagoya Protocol) had just entered into force. That was a major step towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 16.

22. Following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the secretariat of the CBD had promoted a number of awareness-raising activities, including an event under the theme “Island Biodiversity” to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity in the International Year of Small Island Developing States. It had also been actively involved in work to include biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda and among the sustainable development goals. The work done thus far had shown that there was a strong link between biodiversity, sustainable development and poverty eradication.

23. *Ms. Francis (Bahamas), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

24. **Ms. Jimenez-Cisneros** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Water Cooperation (A/69/326), said that it provided an overview of the origin, purpose and impact of the combined campaign of the International Year of Water Cooperation and World Water Day in 2013. The campaign had aimed inter alia at raising awareness about water challenges and solutions, and fostering partnerships and dialogue. The campaign had also highlighted the absence of an adequate framework for the management of water resources. International cooperation was essential in order to improve water management, including the provision of sanitation and the use of transboundary fresh water systems. Many of the challenges associated with water resources could be overcome with improved cooperation.

25. **Mr. Ahmad** (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), introducing the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP (A/69/25), said that during the two-day high-level segment, ministers had considered two themes, namely, the post-2015 development agenda and the illegal trade in wildlife and had discussed the environmental dimensions of sustainable development goals. The meeting had sent a strong message on the

need to decouple socioeconomic prosperity from environmental degradation. With regard to the illegal trade in wildlife, it was agreed that, while legal frameworks and incentives were needed in order to establish international agreements, it was important not to duplicate efforts. The outcome document represented a strong commitment by Member States to ensure the full integration of the environment throughout the sustainable development agenda.

26. Lastly, in reference to the note by the Secretary-General on the term of the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (A/69/379), he drew attention to the recommendation that the members of the board serve for a period of two years, with the possibility of being reappointed for one consecutive term.

27. **Mr. Wahba** (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/69/313), said that it provided an update on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions concerning the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force in 2006 of oil storage tanks in the vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon. As noted in paragraph 11, there remained grave concern at the lack of implementation of resolutions on the subject vis a vis compensation by the Government of Israel to Lebanon and other States affected by the oil spill, particularly as studies showed that the value of the damage to Lebanon amounted to \$856.4 million. Member States and the international donor community were urged to make contributions to the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund.

28. *Mr. Cardi (Italy) resumed the Chair.*

29. **Ms. Carpentier** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship for development (A/69/320), said that it documented recent efforts to develop entrepreneurship policies holistically, with input from all levels, including the public and private sectors. A number of States had improved their regulatory environment inter alia by clarifying procedures and providing support to help entrepreneurs and their businesses. To achieve the sustainable development goals, a new generation of entrepreneurs would be needed. Accordingly, UNCTAD had adapted its entrepreneurship policy

framework and guidance to deliver technical assistance to cover six steps, including national entrepreneurship strategies and access to finance.

30. The report recommended that the United Nations should support the convening of a global forum on entrepreneurship for development; it also called for the creation or strengthening of national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship, the development of networks of entrepreneurship and enterprise educators, enhancing of entrepreneurship opportunities for young people and the empowerment of women entrepreneurs.

31. **Mr. Takada** (Executive Office of the Secretary-General), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (A/69/395), said that significant activities were underway in support of sustainable energy for all, involving governmental and business partners along with civil society and international organizations.

32. Progress was being made in a variety of ways. In a significant step towards universal energy access, the European Commission, the United States and others had developed public-private partnerships to provide close to 1 billion people with access to energy services by 2030. The International Renewable Energy Agency, meanwhile, had shown how to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030, and a large-scale reduction in carbon emissions was foreseen in the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform. Over 1,800 NGOs and entrepreneurs were addressing the challenge of energy poverty on the ground and progress on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency was being tracked by the Sustainable Energy for All global tracking framework. Stakeholders across the world had made commitments and taken action so it was time to consolidate gains and make long-term arrangements to develop that momentum.

33. **Ms. Poole** (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan (A/69/257), said that since the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, Kazakhstan had been working to improve the wellbeing of people in the region. Between 1998 and 2013, per capita GDP had multiplied by eight and the

focus of programmes had shifted from humanitarian assistance to the sustainable development agenda. In conjunction with United Nations partners, Kazakhstan was implementing an area-based development programme that addressed issues such as maternal and child health, energy efficiency, citizen participation and local governance. As a result, infant and maternal mortality rates had fallen and the programme had become a model for promoting innovations, such as energy efficiency technologies. UNDP would continue to support Kazakhstan to scale-up actions that had demonstrated transformative results for the people in the east Kazakhstan region and beyond.

34. **Mr. Castellanos** (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)), introducing the report on the United Nations Climate Change Conference (A/69/317, section I), said that the Conference had succeeded in delivering significant results. As noted in paragraphs 3(a), (b) and (c), the main outcomes included the decision on advancing the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, the establishment of the Warsaw international mechanism to address losses and damage associated with climate change and the adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus.

35. Another key outcome of the Conference, outlined in paragraph 21, had been the adoption of a set of decisions related to finance and the Green Climate Fund. Thus far, only 18 instruments of acceptance had been received in respect of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. He urged all parties to the protocol to deposit their instruments of acceptance at the earliest opportunity.

36. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) expressed concern at the fact that the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/69/313) did not include information on the damage inflicted on the Syrian Arab Republic. In resolution 68/206, the General Assembly had called for further action to measure and quantify the environmental damage sustained not only by Lebanon, but also by neighbouring countries.

37. **Mr. Wahba** (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that he would communicate the concerns of the Syrian delegation to the authors of the report and request further information in that regard.

38. **Ms. Vilaseca Chumacero** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and

China, said that challenges relating to limited resources and the many ongoing crises, were seriously undermining efforts by developing countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals. The outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals should constitute the main basis for integrating the sustainable development goals into the post-2015 developed agenda. All Member States must promote sustainable development in accordance with the Rio Principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To that end the international community must make available adequate and predictable financial resources, and facilitate technology transfer and capacity building with a view to fostering sustainable development and inclusive growth in developing countries.

39. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development should be implemented without delay. The high-level political forum on sustainable development should provide leadership on sustainable development issues, ensuring implementation of States' sustainable development commitments, including with regard to the sharing of best practices, and developing and implementing policies to better integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. Efforts should also be made to uphold the right of peoples' living under foreign occupation to sustainable development.

40. The Group was looking forward to the upcoming third International Conference on El Niño Southern Oscillation, particularly in view of the fact that the El Niño phenomenon was anticipated to take place in late 2014 or early 2015, with potentially serious consequences for some Member States. The international community must continue to provide support to the International El Niño Research Center, located in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

41. The Group welcomed the report and recommendations emerging from the series of four one-day structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and called for the swift implementation of those recommendations and the establishment of an effective facilitation mechanism within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

42. The Samoa Pathway articulated the priorities of small island developing States and could help them attain their sustainable development goals. Accordingly, the commitments contained in it must be implemented. Governments must also strive to strengthen the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The Group was looking forward to the adoption of an innovative post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction at the upcoming third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. All countries should seek to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and foster a culture in which people lived more frugally and shared resources more equitably. Given their historical responsibilities, developed countries must also take the lead in addressing climate change, inter alia by delivering on their promises to provide financial and technological support to developing countries, and by ensuring the early and full capitalization of the Green Climate Fund.

43. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was an important instrument. Adequate and predictable financial resources must be made available to combat desertification and improve the livelihoods of those affected by that phenomenon, and an intergovernmental scientific panel on desertification, land degradation and drought should be established to support global efforts to that end. All Member States should engage in the discussion of issues relating to biodiversity, particularly with a view to finding a coherent approach for the benefit of developing countries, which stood to suffer the most from loss of their natural ecosystems and traditional knowledge. The international community must also strengthen its efforts to safeguard coastal and marine environments, including through the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, given that its fragile ecosystems and unique biodiversity were especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change and human activity.

44. **Ms. Whyte** (Barbados), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the post-2015 development agenda must be inclusive, and must take into consideration disparities among countries. The Samoa Pathway could serve as useful input to deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda for it addressed issues of particular concern to many small island States, including access to concessional financing for

development, debt relief and technology transfer. Those countries' concerns should also figure prominently on the agenda of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which must, moreover, provide the necessary monitoring and follow-up to the Samoa Pathway, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. CARICOM welcomed the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and looked forward to considering the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; both documents should be taken into account in preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

45. CARICOM called on the international community to continue to provide finance, technological assistance and capacity-building support in order to promote sustainable development and safeguard the environment in the Caribbean subregion, and to recognize the Caribbean Sea as a "special area". Small island and low-lying coastal developing States were particularly at risk from the adverse impact of climate change. It was therefore crucial that an ambitious, legally-binding, and universally applicable climate change agreement should be adopted at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference. CARICOM believed that UNFCCC must remain the primary intergovernmental forum for negotiating a global response to climate change, but also welcomed the positive momentum that had been built by the 2014 climate summit. The commitments that had been made at that time must be fully upheld, including States' pledges to capitalize the Green Climate Fund. CARICOM underlined, however, that an additional \$8 to 13 billion would be required for the Fund to begin operations in 2015.

46. CARICOM members looked forward to the advancement of innovative renewable energy initiatives, including under the auspices of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. They also reaffirmed their commitment to honour the pledges they had made in the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States regarding, inter alia, access to affordable, modern energy services and promoting energy-efficient technologies and low-carbon development. They also recognized the importance of safeguarding biodiversity and called on

the international community to support their efforts to manage the subregion's mountain and marine ecosystems sustainably. In that regard, UNEP must take the lead in setting a global environmental agenda.

47. **Mr. Mendoza-García** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/309, which affirmed that the proposal contained in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development (A/68/970) should be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda. That report should neither be reopened nor renegotiated. CELAC countries would continue to engage actively and constructively with other stakeholders in the process to elaborate that agenda. In that connection, it was hoped that the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development would accelerate implementation of the proposals set forth in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference and relevant General Assembly resolutions, reaffirm the key role of the Economic and Social Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and strengthen the mandate of the high-level political forum to provide political leadership and draw up relevant recommendations. It was crucial that the high-level political forum, in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and other relevant regional entities should become a dynamic platform for regular dialogue with a focused, action-oriented agenda, so that new and emerging sustainable development challenges were addressed effectively and with an appropriate regional focus.

48. CELAC countries looked forward to working with other members of the international community to ensure that the Samoa Pathway was fully and effectively implemented. They also underlined the importance of disaster reduction and resilience building among communities and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, where poverty and underdevelopment often exacerbated the impact of natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction and resilience building must therefore be afforded due consideration in the intergovernmental process to elaborate the post-2015 development agenda and in the process to draw up the Hyogo Framework for Action.

49. CELAC welcomed the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biodiversity. The three goals of the Convention, namely conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of biodiversity, must be pursued in a balanced and coherent manner.

50. Developing countries were being disproportionately affected by climate change, which was undermining their efforts to achieve sustainable development. UNFCCC must remain the primary international and intergovernmental forum for negotiating global responses to climate change, and the principles set forth in the Convention and in the Kyoto Protocol, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, must be upheld. A legally-binding climate change agreement should be adopted at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference. It was also crucial to capitalize the Green Climate Fund so that the world's most vulnerable countries could access the funds they needed to implement climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

51. In order to implement internationally-agreed development goals, a strengthened global partnership for development was needed, together with effective implementation mechanisms. Efforts must be made to mobilize necessary financial resources and promote technology development and transfer and capacity-building. Developed countries must agree to quantitative time-bound financial targets to complement their existing official development assistance commitments. In order to create an enabling international environment and effectively pursue international cooperation, stakeholders must take into account the different development stages, priorities, circumstances and capabilities of developing countries and the multidimensional nature of development.

52. **Mr. Aboulatta** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said that the international community must adopt a more integrated approach in its efforts to address the three dimensions of sustainable development and eradicate poverty. That approach must be based on key principles, inter alia the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and build on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals indeed, the latter must constitute the key instrument guiding the integration of the goals into the post-2015 development agenda. The

high-level political forum on sustainable development must provide political leadership and guidance to that end.

53. The post-2015 development agenda should provide for a just and sustainable global system that supported developing countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development and addressed ongoing disparities between developing and developed countries. In that connection, it was essential that developed States should uphold their commitments to assist developing countries achieve their development objectives. The Group welcomed the international community's deliberations on creating a mechanism to promote the adoption and transfer of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies, and it called on the President of the General Assembly to facilitate the formulation of recommendations in that regard to serve as input to deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda.

54. The Arab Group was looking forward to a successful outcome of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol), and emphasized that all measures adopted during the most recent sessions of the Conference of the Parties must be fully implemented. In view of the grave dangers posed by climate change it was critical that States should take immediate action to fulfil the commitments they had made in the context of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Efforts must also be made to address financing gaps resulting from developed countries' failure to uphold their commitments on finance for technology and capacity-building and developed countries must shoulder their responsibilities to implement climate mitigation strategies and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

55. The United Nations should formulate a comprehensive energy agenda providing for an effective renewable energy technology transfer mechanism. The Arab Group welcomed all international conferences to promote the use of renewable energy, and fully supported the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Effective water management mechanisms were also a crucial prerequisite for social and economic development and for ensuring environmental

sustainability. Furthermore, an integrated approach was needed in order to address land degradation, which was having a significant negative impact on some Arab countries' agricultural productivity and biodiversity and hampering their efforts to achieve internationally-agreed sustainable development targets. In addition, it was essential to raise awareness of the importance of combating desertification.

56. The Arab Group welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/304 on the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes, which would help low and middle-income countries address the repercussions of the international financial and economic crisis on their economies and manage their external debts more effectively.

57. The Group once more emphasized that the international community must shoulder its responsibilities and give sufficient attention to the social and economic situation of peoples living under occupation, including the Palestinian people and the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan, who must be allowed to enjoy fully their rights to self-determination and social and economic development.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*