



# General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
28 October 2013

Original: English

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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

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

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General debate (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Maope** (Lesotho) said that although progress was being made on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in parts of the developing world, the number of people in extreme poverty was increasing. Measurements of economic growth should include such factors as the creation of decent jobs that led to improved living standards.

2. Acute land degradation was a severe problem in Lesotho. It was caused by poor land use and management and unprecedented soil erosion as a result of extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods. In the face of that challenge, his Government was sparing no effort to implement land reclamation programmes. Increased investment in agriculture was vital to the development of developing countries, and should be aimed at increasing productivity and small-scale farmers' resilience. Agriculture and environmental policies should be incorporated into rural development policies to ensure that ecosystems continued to sustain farming systems.

3. His delegation hoped that the 2014 comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action would spur the United Nations and the international community to develop an action-oriented framework to support the integration of landlocked developing countries into the global trading system. The Doha Round of negotiations should be concluded, and should facilitate trade by implementing duty-free, quota-free market access for least developed countries. Official development assistance (ODA) had fallen below target levels, but was vital to countries like Lesotho. It should be the basis for a strengthened global partnership in the transition to the post-2015 development agenda.

4. **Mr. Msosa** (Malawi) said that the Committee must comprehensively address the issue of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development with a view to bridging the digital divide, which was continuing to widen alongside advances in science and technology. Although ICT had contributed significantly to Malawi's economic growth, it lacked adequate supporting services and infrastructure. It called on its development partners to provide assistance in that area.

5. In the past year, the new Government had committed itself to addressing the severe economic,

political and social challenges facing the country through restoration of the rule of law, respect for human rights, devaluation of the currency and promotion of fiscal discipline. The economy was predicted to grow by 5 per cent over the current year yet Malawi remained one of the world's poorest nations.

6. His delegation hoped that the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, would be implemented in its entirety, ensuring duty-free, quota-free market access and capacity-building assistance for the least developed countries. Powerful trading countries should exercise the political will to conclude the Doha Round of negotiations, in a manner favourable to developing countries. Developed countries should remove agricultural subsidies and other trade barriers to enhance developing countries' access to trade.

7. **Mr. Nduhuura** (Uganda) said that, despite progress, some African countries were not on track to meet several of the MDGs. It was essential to focus on poverty eradication and boosting household incomes. The three dimensions of sustainable development needed to be more equally balanced, in the work of the Committee and in implementing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The post-2015 development agenda should emphasize education, developing infrastructure, creating an environment conducive to private investment, promoting industrialization and value-addition, diversifying economies to create employment, and promoting sustainable production and consumption. Financing from public, private and innovative sources would be needed to support the critical projects that would put developing countries on a trajectory towards economic transformation and development.

8. Consistent with Goal 8, the new development framework should incorporate a stronger global partnership for development; in the wake of the financial crisis some developed countries had implemented protectionist measures which had affected global trade, despite the commitment to develop an open and non-discriminatory trading system. Lastly, regional integration to create more opportunities for trade, investment and employment was important. The East African Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the South African Development Community were jointly working on creating a free trade area.

9. **Mr. Gaumakwe** (Botswana) said that the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals had been key to the transition from a global agenda anchored by the MDGs to a post-2015 agenda that emphasized sustainable development. The Committee should examine fulfilment of previous commitments relating to sustainable development in its formulation of a new cooperative framework.

10. His delegation looked forward to working with middle-income countries on sustainable development, and believed that widespread poverty, income inequality, and disparities in access to basic services should be addressed as priorities. As a landlocked developing country, Botswana likewise looked forward to the Review Conference on the Almaty Programme of Action and hoped that its priorities would be incorporated in the post-2015 development agenda. Lastly, climate change was impacting negatively on development efforts in Botswana. Lamenting the international community's inadequate response to the water shortage in his country, he said that assistance to countries in arid, semi-arid and desert environments must be emphasized in the Committee's discussion of climate change.

11. **Mr. Salvador Muñoz** (Ecuador) said that political will on the part of developed countries was required to implement sustainable development. It was lamentable that, despite the agreements reached at the Rio+20 Conference, the green economic model that continued to be favoured not only had as its foundations an unequal, exclusive and unsustainable system, but prioritized private investment.

12. It was time to examine transnational companies' relationship to the environment; many companies were not held accountable for their environmental crimes. Texaco-Chevron had dumped more than 68 million cubic meters of toxic waste into the Ecuadorian Amazon, and had not provided any economic compensation to the affected communities. It had not respected the sentence it was given by the Ecuadorian justice system, but instead had orchestrated a media campaign to attack the affected communities, and the country as a whole. That kind of damaging private investment did not contribute to development and was unacceptable.

13. Developed countries were not fulfilling their greenhouse gas reduction commitments. Yet those

commitments needed to be more ambitious if temperature increase was to be controlled. He called for stronger commitments on their part — even beyond those pledged for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol — and respect for the multilateral system. Ecuador had made innovative proposals on climate change, such as the Net Avoided Emissions mechanism.

14. The damaging effects of the financial crisis were good reason for the United Nations to play a stronger role in global economic governance, with a view to thorough reform of the international financial system and democratization of international relations through a new international economic order. His delegation called on the Committee to adopt resolutions which would provide the international community with new financial architecture, an independent sovereign debt restructuring mechanism, a means of overcoming the Doha Round stalemate, a guarantee that developed countries would designate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GDP) as ODA, and the space for developing countries to adopt policies in accordance with their national priorities. South-South cooperation was essential to development but should remain a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

15. His delegation, too, wished to highlight the importance of migration and its link to development. He repeated the offer to host the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable development (Habitat III) in Quito.

16. **Ms. Shekriladze** (Georgia) said that her Government had implemented economic reforms aimed at creating an attractive climate for entrepreneurs. The results had been judged positive by international financial institutions and rating agencies. Although the financial crisis and the war of 2008 had reversed economic growth temporarily, since 2010 the economy had been rebounding; real growth in GDP had reached 6.1 per cent in 2012. The Government had also improved social welfare by increasing senior citizens' pensions and social welfare packages for persons with disabilities, and by introducing a universal nationwide health insurance programme. Despite those advances, poverty and unemployment remained a major concern.

17. The Government integrated sustainable development into national policies, and was currently implementing 70 environmental protection projects

financed by donor States and international organizations. Its national biodiversity strategy would be renewed by the end of 2013. Recognizing the importance of environmental education, Georgia had convened the Tbilisi+35 Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development the previous year in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It was developing various sources of green energy, especially hydroelectricity, and was approaching 100 per cent clean energy consumption.

18. Georgia did not apply any non-tariff trade barriers or export duties, and its import tariffs were among the lowest in the world. It enjoyed free trade with its neighbours and had recently concluded negotiations with the European Union on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area as part of its association agreement, which was expected to be finalized in November 2013.

19. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals should complement, rather than replace, the MDGs, and that their main objective should be the elimination of poverty. The sustainable development goals should be coherently integrated into the development agenda. The agenda's goals must be clear and measurable, and take into account regional and national priorities, capacities and levels of development. His delegation agreed with the conclusions in The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, on progress towards the MDGs in Africa. According to the report, most African economies depended on extractive industries and raw materials; industrialization and diversification were needed to address economic inequality in those sectors.

20. The sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda must not sidetrack efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015. International solidarity and the acceleration of international aid would be crucial to that end. African countries, in particular, required assistance to improve production capacity and facilitate market access for their products.

21. Employment was crucial to poverty eradication, personal dignity, collective well-being and sustainable economic growth. His Government had developed a strategy for employment and growth to address a host of development-related issues. Under the plan,

Cameroon had installed three hydroelectric dams over the past year and was on track to triple its electricity generation by 2020, while prioritizing the growth of renewable energy. It had also implemented fiscal reforms to mobilize domestic resources, including savings, and attract foreign direct investment, inter alia, by streamlining the process of starting a business.

22. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) said that the United Nations should play an important role in the development of an inclusive, balanced, viable yet ambitious development agenda. South-South cooperation was a vital complement to North-South cooperation. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, should be strengthened, and new innovative forms of collaboration should be sought; triangular cooperation had great potential to facilitate the efficient transfer of technology.

23. Straitened economic circumstances should not impede the creation of an ambitious development agenda. Solidarity with those most in need of aid and middle-income countries, as well as commitments to combating climate change, should not be sidelined. His delegation looked to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and other international forums to provide realistic guidance in that regard. Developed countries must honour their financial commitments and progress must be made towards implementing the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. Approximately 70 per cent of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries, and without a structured plan to integrate those countries into the agenda, it would not be possible to achieve meaningful development goals.

24. Although wasteful patterns of consumption were not often discussed in relation to the development agenda, changing them was critical to sustainable development. Costa Rica actively supported international agreements to mitigate the effects of climate change and hoped that the forthcoming nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would contribute to the formulation of an ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding framework on climate change and to reinforcing existing national commitments to reducing carbon emissions.

25. **Mr. Mangisi** (Tonga) said that his country had embarked on an MDG acceleration plan, focusing on

combating non-communicable diseases. Tonga's ability to meet the MDGs would depend largely on the availability of ODA, which had fallen over the past two years. Developed countries must honour their ODA commitments; particularly for small island developing States, ODA was crucial to implementing programmes which would enable them to meet internationally agreed development goals. Innovative sources of funding, such as more efficient transfers of remittances and the creation of diaspora bonds, should also be considered.

26. Convinced that it was essential to move towards the use of sustainable energy sources, Tonga was involved in the creation of a Pacific regional data repository for sustainable energy for all. The outcome of the 2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States should help to shape the post-2015 development agenda. Climate change should be a cross-cutting issue in discussions on sustainable development, and oceans should be a thematic priority.

27. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that the Committee should pay special attention to the least developed countries, landlocked least developed countries and countries affected by conflict, which needed international help to achieve the MDGs. Their particular needs should also be considered in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. Developed countries should mobilize ODA. His delegation supported convening another follow-up international conference to the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development before the end of 2015. The 10-year Review Conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action was critical to the success of landlocked least developed countries, and, along with the recommendations of the Rio+20 Conference, the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, it should guide deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda.

28. Afghanistan was redoubling its efforts to mitigate negative impacts of climate change, and urged the international community to operationalize the Green Climate Fund by early 2014.

29. Despite instability caused by terrorism, Afghanistan remained committed to achieving the MDGs by its extended deadline of 2020 with the help

of its national development strategy. It had already made measurable progress, including with regard to Goal 9 on enhanced security, added specially for Afghanistan.

30. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia) said that a pragmatic process for defining the sustainable development goals was of the utmost importance. The goals should be limited in number and focused on areas where significant change could be made. While there had been progress towards achieving the MDGs, it had been unequal between, and within, countries. A single, universal and inclusive post-2015 development agenda must take into account the specific situations of different countries and ensure that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries continued to benefit from international cooperation. The eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequality must be the cornerstone of the new agenda, within the context of sustainability and more responsible production and consumption patterns.

31. The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Round follow-up and implementation process should lead to more coherent financial and commercial systems that would support the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. An international follow-up conference on the commitments deriving from the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Round should be held before 2015, so that it could contribute to the preparation of the new development agenda. The decrease in vital ODA over the previous two years must be reversed; developed countries must meet the stipulated figure of 0.7 per cent of GNP. Technical cooperation must increase to close the digital divide between developed and developing nations.

32. The economic crisis had shown that the international financial system needed to be more transparent and better regulated. The United Nations had an important role to play in the creation of an inclusive, strengthened system of economic governance, which would give developing countries a greater voice and recognize new economic realities such as emerging economies.

33. Operational activities for development should adopt a coordinated and articulated approach aimed at finding innovative and comprehensive solutions to economic, social and environmental problems. His delegation supported steps taken to reform the United

Nations system to strengthen regional representation and enhance the coherence of its development operations.

34. In 2014 Colombia would host the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, a platform for exchanging ideas on city development.

35. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) said that his delegation welcomed the outcome document of the special event towards achieving the MDGs, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 September. The post-2015 development agenda should include any unmet MDGs and focus in particular on the eradication of extreme poverty. It was essential to ensure that adequate financing was in place. Future development goals should be based on a realistic assessment of the available public and private funding in light of the persistent economic and financial crisis. Overly ambitious goals would create unrealistic expectations, which could in turn cause social and political tension.

36. **Ms. Elhassan** (Sudan) said that the sustainable development goals should be comprehensive and balanced. They should not include any reference to unilateral or collective coercive economic pressure. Instead, they should tackle the issue of debt, particularly in the case of countries emerging from conflict, such as her own. In its endeavour to realize the MDGs and formulate the post-2015 goals, the international community should focus on eradicating poverty, promoting human development and social integration, respecting human dignity and protecting the planet for future generations. Developing countries needed clear policies with specific objectives in respect of economic development, education and innovative industrial and environmental policy. A deeper partnership on renewable energy should be created, ensuring wide dissemination of the benefits in order to confront hunger, poverty and food insecurity. South-South cooperation also had a part to play, as it reflected solidarity among States and peoples of the South. Lastly, the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, entitled "The future we want", had underscored the need for adequate financing from all sources to promote sustainable development.

37. **Ms. Carías** (Honduras) said that the Committee must show that its deliberations could have a tangible impact in promoting sustainable development. In view of the global situation, which was marked by persistent socio-economic inequality, natural disasters and

negative financial trends, it was encouraging that global leaders had unanimously expressed their determination to accelerate implementation of the MDGs and negotiate a post-2015 development agenda. The political and technical follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference reflected a growing sense of cooperation among global stakeholders. For instance, the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, contained in General Assembly resolution 68/4, had clearly reaffirmed the need to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination. Her delegation rejected any criminalization of migration and believed that the fundamental human rights of migrants should be upheld, regardless of their location.

38. Although Honduras was deemed to be a middle-income country, part of its population faced a daily struggle with poverty, and the country's development efforts focused on eradicating poverty and hunger with financial and technical support from the international community. One social programme provided low-income families with vouchers for children's health, food and education. The country's holistic strategy on childhood had improved maternal health before, during and after childbirth. Over 90 per cent of young children were vaccinated, and almost 100 per cent of treatment for HIV-AIDS was funded. In early 2013, workers, farmers, the public sector and the Government had begun dialogue towards a fiscal pact to ensure equitable economic growth and make public policy more efficient.

39. Critical issues for Honduras and the region included environmental vulnerability, climate change mitigation, protection of forests, rural development and sustainable agriculture and tourism. The country's fertile farmlands and natural resources could act as a source of inclusive employment and economic growth, one that would be maximized by access to technology for education and production. Honduras would hold general elections in November 2013, but had enacted a strategy to ensure continuity in social policy in coordination with civil society.

40. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that in order to realize the MDGs and develop the post-2015 development agenda, the international community should prioritize the development of a stable yet dynamic macroeconomic system. Located as it was in a turbulent region, his own country was keenly aware of the importance of a peaceful and secure environment for sustainable development, not to mention the obstacle posed by unilateral economic and financial pressure.

41. The post-2015 agenda should be based on the MDGs, the outcome document of the special event and the work of the recently established High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The new framework for sustainable development should take into account the different circumstances of countries. It should set out a road map for implementation, including capacity-building through the sharing of knowledge, science, technology and experience.

42. South-South cooperation should not detract from the responsibilities of the developed countries and the United Nations development entities. It was therefore important to provide policy guidance for the operational activities of the United Nations, notably through such documents as General Assembly resolution [67/226](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

43. **Mr. Imakando** (Zambia) said that there was a need to address fragilities and imbalances in the international financial system, which played a critical role in supporting development. The Bretton Woods institutions should be remodelled in order better to meet development challenges. The system should mobilize resources for sustainable, inclusive and economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication, while also fostering sustainable debt management, including debt financing, relief and restructuring.

44. There had been no significant or meaningful progress in multilateral negotiations under the Doha Round. Nor had there been any progress in implementing duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries, an objective that had been reiterated in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session, contained in resolution [65/1](#). The Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which would be held in Bali

from 3 to 6 December, should provide an opportunity to conclude the Doha Round.

45. Zambia had harmonized its development agenda with the Istanbul Programme of Action, which underscored the need for human and social development. In order for the programme to succeed, it was important for Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and cooperation partners to make timely contributions to its trust fund. South-South and triangular cooperation also had a role in promoting an equitable development agenda, and should therefore be incorporated into the policies of United Nations development entities.

46. The post-2015 sustainable development goals should be actionable, concise and balanced, integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions. The international community should increase the momentum for sustainable and inclusive development, including through global partnerships based on mutual accountability and local private sector and public-private partnerships.

47. **Mr. Back** (Australia) said that because economic growth and trade were the key drivers of prosperity, efforts should be made to revitalize the work of WTO and reach successful outcomes at its Ninth Ministerial Conference. It was important to remove the barriers, particularly trade subsidies that prevented developing countries from exporting agricultural products. Australia would work towards that goal as Chair of the Cairns Group and incoming Chair of the Group of 20 (G-20).

48. The post-2015 development framework should focus on poverty eradication through sustainable development. It should promote a thriving private sector, job creation, better access to trade and markets, investment in infrastructure, the growth of educated and productive labour forces, public health, quality education, women's leadership and environmental preservation. It should benefit the most vulnerable categories, including persons with disabilities.

49. In the light of its concern for the specific challenges of the Indo-Pacific region, Australia looked forward to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Apia, Samoa from 1 to 4 September 2014. It also looked forward to the conclusion in 2015 of a new global agreement on climate change covering all major greenhouse gas emitters. The Committee should seek to build

momentum towards that objective, while bearing in mind the primary role of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Lastly, Australia would seek to contribute constructively to the work of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

50. **Mr. Abdo** (Yemen) said that the efforts made by developing countries to achieve the MDGs had been undermined and impeded by their scarce resources. Goal 8, in particular, had not been given the necessary attention, and many commitments remained unfulfilled. Realization of the MDGs would require renewed political will and resource mobilization, and it should remain the priority in the post-2015 period.

51. The post-2015 development agenda should include provisions for an effective partnership for financing for development. Follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference should address the three pillars of sustainable development in a balanced manner. His delegation hoped that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development would avoid the shortcomings of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

52. Yemen faced particular challenges as one of the Arab Spring countries which sought to address poor governance, corruption and lack of genuine development efforts. Government structures were now being reformed, and the country was again focusing on its economic and development priorities in cooperation with the international community and the United Nations system.

53. The international community must tackle the challenges posed by climate change and the developed countries must address their historical commitments in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

54. **Mr. Aldrees** (Saudi Arabia) said that the economic and financial crises that had begun in 2008, spikes in food and commodity prices, and other challenges had had a disproportionate impact on developing countries, exacerbating inequalities between rich and poor countries.

55. Saudi Arabia was doing its utmost to promote dialogue between energy producers and consumers and was constantly working to ensure stability in global oil markets. It had established a fund for research on energy, the environment and climate change, to which it had donated \$300 million, in addition to granting \$500 million in concessional loans towards energy projects in developing countries. It was concerned, however, by selective policies adopted by certain industrialized countries and believed that it was not possible to avoid the use of fossil fuels. Furthermore, new carbon sequestration technologies allowed the world to use fossil fuels to produce energy while mitigating any damage to the environment.

56. An inclusive approach was required to address the short-, medium- and long-term impacts of the food crisis and its human rights implications. Member States must, inter alia, promote investment in agriculture, land reclamation and scientific research with a view to ensuring food security. Saudi Arabia was one of the world's leading providers of ODA and had given approximately \$109 billion in aid to more than 95 developing countries over the previous 35 years. That amount exceeded the United Nations ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product.

57. The international development framework should take into account the cultures and traditions of developing countries. A focus on simple and concise goals should be preserved. Any objectives extraneous to the immediate purpose of combating poverty, ignorance and disease should be avoided. The world needed a new, strong partnership between developed and developing countries based on justice, equality and transparency, including measures to liberalize trade and successfully complete the Doha Round.

58. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that the post-2015 development agenda would require both specific goals and a broader transformative vision. A universal framework of goals would provide guidance while also giving flexibility to each country. It should not negate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities or allow donors to avoid their ODA commitments. The international community had a collective responsibility to create an enabling environment for development, and it was disappointing that ODA had shrunk for the second consecutive year in 2012. South-South and triangular cooperation, while important in their own right, were no substitute for ODA.

59. The establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the strengthened role of the Economic and Social Council had helped to pave the way for the post-2015 development agenda. The international community should also formulate an effective strategy to finance sustainable development and a mechanism to promote, develop, transfer and disseminate clean and environmentally-sound technologies. For that purpose, a decision must be taken by the end of 2013 to convene another follow-up conference on financing for development no later than 2015.

60. The global economy continued to face pressing challenges, which endangered the progress achieved by developing countries over several decades. The lingering sovereign debt crisis in some eurozone countries, and the potential for a serious debt crisis in the world's largest economy, raised serious concerns about the state of global economic governance. The multilateral financial institutions should become more accountable and responsive to the needs of the developing world. His country was therefore concerned at the delayed implementation of the governance and quota reform of the International Monetary Fund, which had been agreed in 2010, and the postponement of a new comprehensive review of the quota formula, which would better reflect current realities and enhance the representation of developing countries. The international community should use the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to conclude an ambitious and development-oriented outcome to the Doha Round.

61. Lastly, legitimate and accountable global mechanisms with regard to the Internet were also lacking. Illegal interception of communication and data from citizens, businesses and representatives of Governments constituted a breach of international law, human rights and national sovereignty. The United Nations must play a leading role in regulating the conduct of States and preventing cyberspace from being used as a weapon of war.

62. **Mr. Awambor** (Nigeria) said that the sustainable development goals should be formulated in an inclusive and transparent manner, without detracting from the implementation of the MDGs. Poverty reduction remained one of the most pressing challenges, particularly in Africa, which was hampered by global inequalities in wealth distribution and the control of resources and markets. At the current session, the Committee should seek to promote poverty

reduction strategies. For example, ODA could play a critical catalytic role, and it was essential that developed countries honour their commitments in spite of the current crisis. The international community must explore new innovative financial mechanisms to realize the MDGs, with a particular focus on trade and foreign direct investment.

63. Desertification, drought and land degradation had repercussions for developing economies, particularly in the Sahel region. The Rio+20 outcome document included significant commitments to the conservation of biodiversity and water, which should help to reverse the trend. The international community must implement the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and continue galvanizing political will, building capacities and coordinating efforts to tackle the challenge. The serious flooding in the African tropical belt and the receding water level of Lake Chad were additional concerns. While his delegation welcomed the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, more progress would be needed in order to combat greenhouse gas emissions.

64. Lastly, he believed that the Committee should avoid discussing controversial subjects that had no bearing on the issues at hand, particularly with regard to individual lifestyles and preferences that did not enjoy consensus. The cultural sensitivities and ethical and belief systems of Member States must be taken into consideration.

65. **Mr. Boureima** (Niger) said that the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs and the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development had helped to pinpoint some of the pending challenges in realizing the MDGs. One such difficulty, particularly for the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, was the unpredictability and decline in real terms of ODA. The international community must therefore do more to mobilize resources to implement the Istanbul and Almaty Programmes of Action. Such resources should include ODA and innovative mechanisms, including a tax on financial transactions.

66. The post-2015 development agenda should emphasize sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. It should be people-centred, set out clear goals for each category of country, provide for

significant resources, and take into account the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. At its current session, the Committee should also work to implement the Rio+20 outcome document in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

67. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana) said that the Committee should spare no effort in leveraging its own role as a universal forum; contextualizing and crystallizing development policy and practice; articulating action-oriented solutions to current challenges; and exploring ways to improve its own efficiency, notably by reviewing its working methods. Major steps had been taken to implement the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, such as establishing the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, universalizing membership of the United Nations Environment Programme and strengthening the Economic and Social Council. The Committee must now focus on formulating a coherent, integrated, inclusive, dynamic and effective post-2015 development strategy. Irreversible and sustainable development would require confidence-building through the early conclusion of the Doha Round and timely action to mitigate climate change. As Guyana's strategy on rainforests had shown, countries did not have to choose between climate change and development.

68. The Committee should seek to ensure coherence in its work, maintaining a focus on overarching global challenges and on financing and other means of implementation. It should take into consideration the needs of countries in difficult development situations. It should not, however, neglect middle income countries and those small island developing States that were classified as middle- or high-income. Many such countries faced substantial poverty and challenges in adapting to climate change, natural disasters and external shocks, but their classification had led to a shortfall in development financing. At its current session, the Committee would determine the modalities for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which would seek to address those challenges.

69. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that, in discussing the post-2015 development agenda, the Committee should examine ways to tackle the outstanding MDGs, adopt a multidimensional approach to poverty

eradication and improve developing countries' access to markets and technology. The Committee should consider reorganizing the clusters of items on its agenda in order better to reflect the Rio+20 agenda and all three pillars of sustainable development.

70. The global recovery continued to be slow, unbalanced and volatile, making small and open economies vulnerable to exogenous shocks. The Committee should therefore give particular attention to macroeconomic issues. It should discuss the situation of vulnerable people wherever they lived, whether in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, the continent of Africa or even middle income countries. It should consider the unsustainably high debt burdens of many developing countries, including the small, vulnerable island economies of the Caribbean.

71. His delegation looked forward to preparing for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. It would continue to engage with other such States in order to create an enabling environment to fulfil the commitments of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. He hoped that the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would lay the bases for a comprehensive climate change agreement to be concluded in 2015.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*