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later: Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria)

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

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Mr. Kőrösi** (Hungary), President of the General Assembly, said that, during the high-level week of the General Assembly, most world leaders, speaking in both the general debate and bilateral meetings, had expressed a determination to seek multilateral solutions to the complex crises currently affecting the globe, as well as transformation to improve perspectives. In conducting its business, the Committee should look at each item on its agenda through the lenses of crisis management and transformation and provide concrete, transformative solutions that could easily be understood by the broader public, as the world was looking for clear, relevant answers. Moreover, solidarity was the only means of effectively re-establishing trust and making the United Nations more relevant and meaningful. The coming year would be marked by critical milestones for sustainability, with conferences on climate change, biodiversity, water and disaster risk reduction. The Committee's work would feed directly into the outcomes of the conferences, laying out a pathway to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which would be the pivotal event of 2023. His vision for the forum was one of integrating silos, which had not necessarily been the approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in the past. Agreement was needed on transformative actions that could accelerate implementation and reverse the current trend of environmental destruction, increased inequality and bubbles of environmental, social and financial debts. Those debts would not disappear and would have to be paid for; if and when they exploded, the damage would be particularly large.

2. The Committee's contribution would be crucial in a number of areas. First, by learning lessons from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the world must prepare for future pandemics by recognizing that vaccines were not the only reliable defence. Deeper understanding was required of evidence-based knowledge of how and why COVID-19 had been able to sweep through health systems, economies, supply chains, labour markets, budgets, public trust and social and political stability.

3. Second, the Committee must strengthen its commitment to curtailing climate change through renewable and sustainable efforts, paying attention to the linkages between climate change and water. The United Nations Water Conference in 2023, as well as its preparatory meeting and stakeholder consultation, would spur advances in ensuring access to water. Water- and climate-smart policies were key to resilience to

floods, droughts and dwindling water resources, as was the global water information system proposed in 2022, which would save lives, make investment more efficient and better guide development decisions.

4. Third, the Committee needed to address the issue of equitable access to sustainable technologies, as technological advancement remained an unattainable development frontier for low-income countries. Innovation through partnerships between high-tech and traditional knowledge was crucial, and work was needed to close the digital divide, which had become a new face of inequality. Fourth, an unprecedented \$4.3 trillion was needed each year to achieve the Goals, and the Committee should encourage discussions on strategies to help countries to recover sustainably.

5. Fourth, a methodology to measure sustainability transformation that could integrate human well-being, natural capital and sustainable economic development, in addition to gross domestic product, was needed. The work of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States was therefore a step in the right direction.

6. While it could be disheartening to see so many challenges everywhere, to paraphrase Martin Luther King, the ultimate measure was not where people stood in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stood at times of challenge and controversy.

Agenda item 18: Sustainable development ([A/77/254](#) and [A/77/272](#))

- (a) Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21 ([A/77/210](#) and [A/77/249](#))**
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ([A/77/146](#) and [A/77/218](#))**
- (c) Disaster risk reduction ([A/77/293](#))**
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind ([A/77/215](#))**
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought**

and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/77/215)

- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** (A/77/215)
- (g) **Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme** (A/77/25 and A/77/25/Add.1)
- (h) **Harmony with Nature** (A/77/244)
- (i) **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all** (A/77/211)
- (j) **Combating sand and dust storms** (A/77/216)
- (k) **Sustainable mountain development** (A/77/217)

7. **Mr. Zhu** (Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the seven reports of the Secretary-General that he would be introducing had been prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

8. The report on the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21 (A/77/210), provided an update on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, focusing on the situation regarding sustainable consumption and production and taking into account the impacts of the response to and recovery from the pandemic. In the report on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (A/77/249), the Secretary-General provided an overview of progress in ensuring access to water and sanitation for all. In his report on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/77/218), he described activities undertaken to implement the Samoa Pathway. The report on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations (A/77/146) provided an overview of the progress made by the countries of the wider Caribbean region towards the sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea. In the report on harmony with nature (A/77/244), the Secretary-General highlighted advances in Earth jurisprudence and joint efforts by Member States to promote human rights alongside the rights of nature. In his report on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern

energy for all (A/77/211), he provided an overview of the progress made and actions taken in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 7. Lastly, in the report on sustainable mountain development (A/77/217), it was recognized that mountains were key ecosystems, providing goods and services for the entire planet and supporting the livelihoods of a many people.

9. **Mr. Bolwijn** (Head of the Investment Research Branch and Officer-In-Charge of the Enterprise Branch of the Investment and Enterprise Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/77/254). He said that micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises were the backbone of many economies, helping to achieve the 2030 Agenda by driving inclusive economic growth, innovation and social cohesion and developing solutions to address environmental challenges. They accounted for the bulk of employment globally and the vast majority of businesses, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Entrepreneurs and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises faced uncertainties and challenges due to climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and the current food, fuel and finance crisis, and small business operators and the self-employed were disproportionately affected since they were less resilient, had fewer reserves and lower access to finance, did not benefit from targeted government support programmes such as those introduced to tackle the pandemic and suffered from supply chain disruptions. The impact on businesses led by women, young people, refugees and migrants was particularly hard. Paradoxically, there had been an increase in the number of entrepreneurs, but they had mostly become entrepreneurs by necessity, having no other opportunity to generate income. Since their needs were unlike those of opportunity entrepreneurs, who were motivated by the pursuit of innovative business opportunities, differentiated policies were needed.

10. Positive examples of entrepreneurial success included innovation through the promotion of clusters, research and development and links between industry and universities, increased resilience to crises, the adoption of digital tools or the shifting of businesses online. Government strategies and action by international organizations had also strengthened the overall business environment through digital government programmes, policy advice frameworks, capacity-building, tools and specific programmes for vulnerable groups.

11. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had recommended that the Committee

work in three main areas. First, it should ensure that strategies for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises were coherent and simplified, focusing on the 90 per cent of entrepreneurs who worked informally or by necessity, since most entrepreneurs were not in the high-tech, digital, innovative category. Second, efforts to promote entrepreneurship digitally must be advanced through support for the digitalization not only of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises but also of government services for businesses and investors. Lastly, specific entrepreneurial development strategies that were inclusive and sustainable must be designed for vulnerable groups, in order to implement the 2030 Agenda.

12. **Mr. Venancio** (Regional Adviser, Regional Bureau for Arab States, United Nations Development Programme), speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/77/272), which had been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/199. He said that the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force in 2006 of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyah electric power plant had resulted in the release of approximately 15,000 tons of fuel oil and the contamination of about 150 km of coastline in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Although studies had shown that the value of the damage to Lebanon had amounted to \$856.4 million in 2014, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had been unable to conduct further environmental studies to assess past or current operations or to determine the cost of environmental degradation. Against that background, no further study was viable after 16 years.

13. There was grave concern at the lack of implementation of reparations and compensation, despite the request by the General Assembly for the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for compensation to the countries affected by the oil slick. The Assembly had also encouraged Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to provide financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon for clean-up and rehabilitation operations along the polluted shores but, following the completion in 2017 of the European Union-supported contract for the treatment and disposal of the remaining waste, no further support had been given for recovery and rehabilitation efforts, despite the importance of clean shores for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and of ecosystem protection, as indicated at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of

Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. In addition, the Secretary-General had urged Member States and other stakeholders to intensify their support for the Lebanon Recovery Fund and the Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration fund, and was concerned at the lack of voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund by the international donor community.

14. The Secretary-General had commended the ongoing efforts of the Government of Lebanon, especially in the light of the further oil spill on the Lebanese coast in February 2021, which had endangered marine life, biodiversity and livelihoods, and had urged stakeholders to intensify support, given the critical socioeconomic situation in the country.

15. **Mr. Thiaw** (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), speaking via video link, introduced the note by the Secretary-General transmitting section II of the report on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions (A/77/215). He said that land degradation and drought were two of the issues at the centre of the work of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and that reducing land loss and building resilience to drought could help to avert global crises. Land degradation reduced soil productivity, affecting food security and plunging millions into poverty and hunger. Intensified by climate change, droughts had become increasingly frequent, as witnessed in many parts of the world in recent years, amplifying wildfires and causing widespread devastation. Long droughts were often followed by severe floods, washing away land and crops and often taking human lives. It had been estimated that droughts might affect over three quarters of the global population by 2050. They were often exacerbated by poor land management, which had been shown to affect up to 40 per cent of the land globally.

16. Land restoration, meanwhile, had many benefits, including generating revenue for local populations, creating employment for young people and increasing agricultural production. Drought and land loss had been priorities at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Côte d'Ivoire, and the secretariat had supported transformative initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative. The Abidjan Legacy Programme and the Group of 20 land restoration

initiative were also aimed at tackling deforestation and land degradation, and further efforts were under way in Latin America and Asia. Billions of dollars were being mobilized following the realization that every \$1 invested would bring up to \$30 in economic returns. Land restoration provided protection against not only climate change and biodiversity loss, but also poverty, conflict and forced migration.

17. More needed to be done, however, including improving access to land for women, who had been particularly affected by land degradation and drought. Although they made up nearly half of the world's agricultural workforce, women had unequal and limited access to land, and therefore to credit and technology. They were not part of the decision-making process, which hindered economic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, they bore the burden of fetching water and firewood in places where such resources were scarce. As recommended in the report of the Secretary-General, appropriate legal frameworks were needed for women's land rights, with the goal of closing the gender gap; building resilience to droughts was another urgent issue; and lastly it was essential to address forced migration and displacement due to desertification and land degradation in order to protect young people from illicit activities.

18. **Ms. Mizutori** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction), in a pre-recorded video statement, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 ([A/77/293](#)). She said that progress was being made but that no country was on track to achieve the Framework's seven global targets by 2030. With ecosystems on the brink of collapse and fiscal space stretched to the limits, the number of disaster events and their impacts was rising. The midterm review of the Framework, which would culminate in a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2023, was the last chance before 2030 to prevent and prepare for new and emerging risks, and the intergovernmentally negotiated outcome would be an opportunity for renewed commitment to accelerating disaster risk reduction and integrating it into development efforts.

19. To strengthen understanding of disaster risk, approaches to risk assessment and modelling should include all hazards and risks outlined in the Sendai Framework, and the use of disaster loss data across sectors should be enhanced through partnerships, including with the private sector. Regular reporting on megatrends and catastrophic risks would strengthen risk-informed decision-making. Moreover, to ensure a

whole-of-government approach to disaster risk reduction, mechanisms for multisectoral and interinstitutional coordination must be strengthened, and concerted efforts were needed to link disaster risk reduction strategies with sectoral plans and integrate them into legislation and regulations. A comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation was essential. Furthermore, investment in disaster risk reduction must be accelerated to meet the scale of financing needed, and all countries should strengthen public financing for it. Such action could be supported by tagging and tracking expenditure and with guidance and regulations on de-risking investment. Planning for risk-informed recovery and rehabilitation before disasters was also important, as was the initiative to ensure comprehensive global coverage of early warning systems within the next five years.

20. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and reviews of the Samoa Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 were opportunities to build resilience and reduce risks for countries in special situations. In addition, disaster risk reduction could be a tool for sustaining peace and reducing humanitarian needs, and multidimensional risk assessments were needed that integrated disaster and conflict risk, as well as disaster risk reduction, into humanitarian action. The climate emergency and the socioeconomic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic were examples of global consequences that could emerge when risk was not well understood or effectively managed.

21. **Mr. Violetti** (Director of the Finance, Technology and Capacity-Building Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), in a pre-recorded video statement, introduced section I of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions ([A/77/215](#)). He said that the delay in the intergovernmental climate change process in 2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the sense of urgency to take action, especially with regard to keeping within reach the 1.5° Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The urgent need to scale up action on climate change mitigation and adaptation, underpinned by the findings of recent intergovernmental reports, was clear and unequivocal, and had been reflected in the Glasgow Climate Pact, in which the parties to the Convention had called for enhanced ambition for climate action and outlined the most urgent steps that needed to be taken for key climate-related issues. The Pact also contained calls for

parties to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies and the adoption of policies in order to transition to low-emission energy systems, including by scaling up clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, such as phasing down coal and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest and most vulnerable and for a just transition.

22. The outcomes of several substantive negotiations had been particularly important and impactful. With regard to finance, the gap in fulfilling the goal of providing \$100 billion and in increasing pledges had been acknowledged, and the need to mobilize climate finance had been confirmed. The urgency of scaling up support for adaptation had been recognized, and a programme of work on the global goal on adaptation had been established. For loss and damage, the functions of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change had been defined and a dialogue had been established. With regard to mitigation, the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases had been recognized, and parties had been requested to strengthen their targets for 2030 as part of their nationally determined contributions, in order to align them with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. Consensus had also been achieved on procedures for the full implementation of the Agreement. Non-party stakeholders had played an important role in climate action, as confirmed by the new or strengthened commitments announced at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change outside the formal negotiation framework.

23. It was hoped that, at its seventy-seventh session, the General Assembly would urge parties to: review and strengthen their targets for 2030 as part of their nationally determined contributions; ratify the Paris Agreement if they had not already done so; and accelerate the preparation of long-term strategies and plans on reducing emissions.

24. **Mr. Cooper** (Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity), in a pre-recorded video statement, introduced section III of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions (A/77/215). He said that the main task of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its fifteenth session to be held in December 2022, would be to finalize and adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the parameters of which had already been set out in the Kunming

Declaration. The framework must be strong enough to reverse biodiversity loss and ensure a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest and must be accompanied by the financial and other resources needed to ensure implementation, as well as appropriate review mechanisms.

25. The working group established to develop the framework had met twice in the past year, and the permanent subsidiary bodies of the Convention – on scientific, technical and technological advice, and on implementation – had also met to develop further decisions for consideration by the Conference and by the meetings of Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to the Nagoya Protocol. There had been an unprecedented level of engagement in the negotiations by all stakeholders, and substantial progress had been made in developing the draft framework, with four long-term goals and 22 action targets to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and its links to climate, health, food systems, cities, public planning, finance and business. The draft framework included provisions on the roles and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and the participation of women and young people. Further work was necessary, especially with regard to an agreement on the scale of action, resource mobilization, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, review mechanisms and access and benefit-sharing related to digital sequence information.

26. The calls for a strong framework made by world leaders at the summit on biodiversity in 2020 had recently been reiterated and served to highlight what was at stake: on the one hand, the loss of biodiversity jeopardizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and, on the other hand, investing in conservation, the sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, which would lay the foundation for a prosperous future, a sustainable recovery and a successful decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. Decisions made during the remainder of 2022 and actions taken in the remaining years of the decade would have profound implications for future generations.

27. **Mr. Ahmad** (Director, New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme) introduced the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP on its fifth session (A/77/25 and A/77/25/Add.1). He said that the session had been held in two stages owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, first online and then in person, under the theme “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. At the high-level segment, ministers of the environment

and other representatives had engaged in interactive dialogues on how to strengthen multilateral environmental agreements, both nationally and internationally, and how action for nature could be strengthened to achieve the Goals and stop the degradation of nature, in line with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. At its resumed session, the Assembly had adopted a ministerial declaration and 14 resolutions, including on forging an international legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution, on establishing a science policy panel on the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as on defining and implementing nature-based solutions and on biodiversity and health.

28. The Assembly had also convened a special session to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of UNEP, at which a political declaration had been adopted and Member States had reaffirmed their commitment to environmental cooperation and the indispensable role of the Assembly as the intergovernmental decision-making body for advancing the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Member States might wish to take note of the reports, declarations and resolutions adopted by the Assembly and welcome its various decisions, as well as to recognize and consider its universal membership structure, funding and mandate.

29. **Mr. Li** (Director of the Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organization), speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on combating sand and dust storms (A/77/216), which had been prepared with contributions from several United Nations system entities. He said that the report highlighted activities, initiatives and achievements from mid-2021 to mid-2022 and reflected growing awareness of sand and dust storms owing to the human, economic, social and environmental costs associated with them. The report covered four principal areas: cross-cutting developments; monitoring, prediction and early warning; impact mitigation, vulnerability and resilience; and source mitigation.

30. Three key messages had been identified in the report. First, the transboundary hazards of sand and dust storms continued to be felt around the world, and there was a greater need for more concerted action and resource mobilization to reduce the adverse impacts of the storms. Second, the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms continued its efforts to move from the planning to the implementation stage and had been invited to further assist affected countries in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms. Lastly, further work was required to fill gaps in data, information and

understanding on the ways in which society interacted with the global dust cycle as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with resource mobilization essential to enhancing global action.

31. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

32. **Mr. Bieke** (Côte d'Ivoire) expressed gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for recalling that the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification had been held in Côte d'Ivoire and said that the Abidjan Legacy Programme was an ambitious initiative that had been adopted to restore degraded land.

33. **Mr. Al-Shaikhli** (Iraq) asked how the international community could tackle drought at the global level, since the severity of drought had a heavy impact on people, ecosystems and economies.

34. **Mr. Bukuru** (Chief, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Liaison Office) said that efforts by Côte d'Ivoire, especially at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, had been greatly appreciated.

35. In responding to the representative of Iraq, he said that, since all countries were affected by drought, especially in the light of climate change, it was time for full mobilization in addressing the issue through early warning, preparedness and resilience.

36. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, despite their best efforts, developing nations were struggling to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. There were three principal factors for the shortfall. First, severe global economic shocks had contributed to the food, finance and debt crises, created challenges for energy security and reversed progress towards the Goals, with rising interest rates and currency depreciation in developing countries exacerbating debt distress and the risk of sovereign default. Second, the vast financial gap was estimated to have risen from \$2.5 trillion before the COVID-19 pandemic to between \$3 trillion and \$5 trillion currently. Third, climate change continued to wreak havoc, disproportionately affecting developing nations, with the impact of a diminishing cryosphere, unabated ocean warming and the accelerated loss of ice mass the results of inadequate action in terms of both mitigation and adaptation.

37. To overcome the cascading crises, it was necessary to implement emergency measures while simultaneously promoting structural change. Emergency measures must

include mobilizing urgent humanitarian, economic and financial support to developing countries in distress, moderating food prices through the expansion of food production and support for small farmers, safeguarding access to energy for developing countries, reducing the financial burden of energy imports and assisting countries suffering from the devastating impacts of climate change. In addition, structural changes were necessary on many levels. The international financial architecture needed to be restructured in alignment with the Goals. Some \$1 trillion needed to be mobilized annually to invest in sustainable and resilient architecture in developing countries. The climate change agenda must be fully implemented in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, delegations must secure fulfilment of the pledge by developed countries to provide at least \$100 billion annually in climate finance, achieve a better balance between mitigation and adaptation and establish a financing facility for loss and damage, with developed countries also leading efforts to reach net zero emissions well before 2050. In addition, biodiversity-related funding and measures must be increased. Furthermore, preferential access should be offered to developing countries for advanced technologies and to end discriminatory restrictions, with a focus on global research and development. Lastly, an equitable international information technology regime should be sought to bridge the digital divide and enable developing countries to enter the global digital economy.

38. **Mr. Blanco Conde** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Central American Integration System, said that Central America was currently being affected by Hurricane Julia and that regional Governments were implementing national plans that prioritized the saving of lives. Strengthened multilateralism, solidarity and international cooperation were required to combat the effects of climate change and other crises. It was hoped that the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would mark a new stage in efforts to combat climate change, including the provision of \$100 billion for climate financing and a new mechanism for loss and damage. Central America was increasingly exposed to intense and extreme meteorological events and other geological threats such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, making it one of the most vulnerable regions. It was therefore important to strengthen the implementation of the Sendai Framework. There should

also be greater ambition with regard to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Developed countries had historically been responsible for those emissions, and more ambitious commitments were needed to limit the rise in global temperatures and provide developing countries with additional, predictable and adequate financial resources. Financing must be easily accessible for the most vulnerable countries in order for them to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Renewable energy and clean technologies should be further promoted in the industry and transport sectors, which were key for recovery, and development partners should continue to support the implementation of the Central American Integration System's sustainable energy strategy.

39. The food and nutritional situation, exacerbated by the global increase in food and energy prices, was of deep concern, especially for the most vulnerable populations, which suffered from chronic malnutrition and the most devastating impacts of climate change. As part of its commitment to combat hunger and malnutrition, the Central American region had participated in many dialogues with the aim of ensuring sustainable and integrated food systems that would guarantee the production and availability of healthy, nutritious food. In addition, measures had been taken in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in order to improve conditions, including in rural and remote areas. To support family farming, a vital sector for food security, an entrepreneurial spirit had been promoted and financial tools created. Improving resilience, gender equality and social inclusion, providing access to quality education and public health services, ensuring food and nutritional security and ending poverty were key components of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

40. **Mr. Blair** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that the recognition of small island developing States as a special case for sustainable development was being eroded by development objectives that were outside the principles of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992. At that Conference, and subsequently in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, it had been recognized that small island development States required tailored solutions, but since those solutions were yet to materialize, it might be wondered whether the international community was serious about ensuring sustainable development for such States. The challenges for small island developing States had expanded in the previous 30 years and many States were on the brink of collapse owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, with development

gains being eclipsed by high levels of unemployment and debt and declines in income, foreign direct investment and remittances.

41. Threats to stability and appeals for solutions appeared to have gone unheard, since the concerns of small island developing States were not seen as priorities reflective of the interests of developing countries. To eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development for all, the appropriate fiscal and policy spaces needed to be created for small island developing States. The Group had repeatedly stressed that the impacts of unsustainable practices elsewhere should not be borne by small island developing States, and climate action should be at the heart of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the creation of a fund for loss and damage.

42. The Alliance of Small Island States had advocated for a proactive system that took into account the inability of small island developing States to respond to global shocks, which had been exacerbated by the pandemic, the socioeconomic crisis and climate change. It was therefore disappointing that solutions to boost the resilience of small island developing States often included caveats that further delayed the provision of support. Small island development States were fully aware of their vulnerabilities and were not seeking free hand-outs, but rather a principled position based on justice and fairness: destructive behaviour and practices must be curtailed, and disaster risk reduction, clean seas, an end to plastic pollution and affordable green technology must be pursued. The special circumstances of small island developing States should be considered with a sense of urgency in negotiations during the current session of the Committee on resolutions on the Samoa Pathway, the finalization of the multidimensional vulnerability index and preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

43. **Mr. Lagdameo** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 complemented the 2030 Agenda and that ASEAN continued to support various initiatives aimed at complementing regional efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and build a more sustainable and resilient future. ASEAN was committed to advancing cooperation on various environmental protection and conservation issues and to raising awareness of emerging environmental concerns and climate change through education. The use of technologies was important for environmental protection and conservation, and efforts to recover from

the COVID-19 pandemic must not come at the expense of the environment. ASEAN was also committed to cooperating with the United Nations to eradicate poverty, improve infrastructure and enhance connectivity, promote sustainable consumption and production, strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources and build resilience, and it looked forward to forthcoming high-level meetings of the two bodies.

44. As one of the regions most prone to natural disasters, ASEAN had implemented disaster management and post-disaster recovery projects in accordance with the “One ASEAN, One Response” approach. Vulnerability to climate change was a major concern for the region, and ASEAN reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact, as well as to integrating biodiversity into post-pandemic recovery efforts. ASEAN also supported the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and had launched an initiative to plant 10 million trees over 10 years. Furthermore, it sought to strengthen economic resilience and ensure energy security in the region, recognizing that natural gas and renewable energy could play a key role in the transition to lower-emission energy systems. There was support for including natural gas in national and international sustainable finance taxonomies in order to further develop supplies and infrastructure and bolster the energy transition.

45. **Mr. Edokpa** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the COVID-19 pandemic had pushed an estimated 15 million Africans into extreme poverty in 2020 and reversed more than two decades of progress in poverty reduction. It had also led to job losses, income reduction and greater risk and vulnerability. The Group reaffirmed the need to ensure the sustainability of social protection systems by prioritizing reliable, sustainable and equitable forms of financing, including both domestic resource mobilization and international cooperation.

46. It was necessary to improve health protection for all, and with it the potential for employment creation, and to bolster national and regional emergency preparedness and response systems for future pandemics. Domestic capacity for vaccine production must also be increased. In addition, the African Continental Free Trade Area and other continent-wide initiatives must be leveraged in order to create decent jobs, reduce poverty, decrease trade dependence on development partners and increase the share of African trade. Furthermore, affordable market-led insurance

schemes needed to be developed through public-private cooperation to safeguard against future shocks.

47. Climate change had made it harder to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals since it had raised the cost of resilience. Increased weather and climate events were destroying economic and ecological systems and contributing to food insecurity and population displacement. Sand and dust storms were increasingly affecting the health, well-being and livelihoods of people as well as water and air quality, causing desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss. Climate change placed an additional burden on poverty eradication efforts and significantly hampered growth and prosperity. It was estimated that up to 118 million extremely poor and vulnerable people would be exposed to drought and extreme heat by 2030. UNEP had warned that, even if all the commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were met, global temperatures would still rise, and more ambitious action was therefore required. With the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification drawing to a close and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration commencing, further work was needed on land restoration and sustainable land management. The Group stressed the importance of climate resilience and the establishment of climate, weather and water frameworks to ensure socioeconomic development. Financial flows to Africa needed to be more efficient and less complex, and investments were required in capacity development and technology transfer and early warning systems. The development and financial sectors must be better risk-informed in order to account for the risk and cost of climate disasters.

48. **Ms. Motsumi** (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the fragile recovery of landlocked developing countries from the COVID-19 pandemic had been interrupted by other concerns affecting the globe. The proportion of the population in such countries living below the international poverty line was worrying, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had also recorded an increase in moderate or severe food insecurity, from 44.5 per cent to 53.8 per cent between 2014 and 2021. In addition to pandemic-related border restrictions and lockdowns affecting food transport, increased food commodity prices due to geopolitical tensions had affected landlocked developing countries, some of which were net food importers. Furthermore, the unemployment rate had worsened in the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. The latter therefore needed targeted and coordinated support from the

international community, aimed at building momentum to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

49. The Group had four specific priorities. First, to reduce high transport costs and times, better transport infrastructure was needed, with simplified and harmonized rules and the transparent exchange of data, along with support from transit countries and other regional partners. Second, international support for mitigation and adaptation finance for climate change must be increased. Many landlocked developing countries were ideally suited for renewable energy, but had some of the lowest uptake rates. Technical support and financing, including from the private sector, could help them to transition to renewable energy and set an example for others. Implementation of the Paris Agreement and participation in other development frameworks, such as on disaster risk reduction and desertification, was also important. Third, greater efforts were needed for the structural economic transformation and diversification of landlocked developing countries so that they could join global value chains and reduce their reliance on natural resources, through the enhancement of productive capacities, technology transfer and foreign investment. Lastly, to achieve long-term debt sustainability, it was necessary for all stakeholders to work towards debt restructuring and the suspension of debt rescheduling.

50. *Mr. Abdelaal (Egypt), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

51. **Ms. Chimbiri Molande** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that, although delegates met every year to discuss sustainable development, it was important to ask whether progress was being made, agreements were being put into practice by Member States and stakeholders were playing their role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. It was evident that recent global challenges were hampering development, especially for the least developed countries.

52. Most of the least developed countries depended on agriculture, but heatwaves, drought, floods and cyclones had destroyed crops, livestock and infrastructure, leading to land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss and forcing countries to channel resources away from broader development goals. Increased funding for climate mitigation and adaptation was therefore essential. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided a key platform for international discussions on climate change, and it was hoped that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its twenty-seventh session, would come up with tangible solutions. It was also necessary to uphold the commitments made under the Paris

Agreement and, as highlighted by the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, provide technical support for capacity-building in those countries in order to fight climate change. Other commitments such as national adaptation plans and the mobilization of \$100 billion per year in climate finance must also be implemented. Climate disasters led to a downturn in socioeconomic development and exacerbated poverty: families lost homes and livelihoods, communities lost businesses and services and children, especially girls, missed school and risked early marriage. Such disasters cost the global economy around \$520 billion annually, with developing countries, in particular those in special situations, bearing a disproportionate share. It had been estimated that 70 per cent of climate-related disasters occurred in the least developed countries. During the 2008–2018 period, such countries lost \$37 billion worth of crops and livestock owing to drought and a further \$21 billion owing to severe floods, and more than 8.5 million people in those countries had been displaced in 2020. Lastly, energy was a major engine for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, but the least developed countries lagged behind in terms of access to electricity.

53. *Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Chair, resumed the Chair.*

54. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, said that the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the current multidimensional global crisis, had reversed many of the achievements in implementing the 2030 Agenda over the past seven years, especially in developing countries. The possible repercussions of ongoing geopolitical tensions were therefore worrying because they not only exacerbated already difficult socioeconomic conditions but also led to greater uncertainty and affected the cost of basic products such as food and energy. However, the reality should serve as a call to scale up efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda by mobilizing resources for development financing and increasing not only official development assistance but also South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation. In that connect, the Global Development Initiative was aimed at accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and Member States were invited to join the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative. The achievement of sustainable development also required the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity as well as the implementation of commitments related to the environment and to making the current model of consumption and production more sustainable.

55. With humanity currently under threat from the impacts of climate change, corrective measures must urgently be adopted to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure that developed countries kept their promises and international financial institutions facilitated the mobilization of resources for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.

56. Unilateral coercive measures also hampered sustainable development for more than one third of humanity, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. They were exacerbating the current crisis and would cause prolonged suffering unless they were brought to an end, enabling all nations to fully realize their productive potential and contribute to overcoming current challenges. Although many of those challenges were beyond the control of developing countries, the Group of Friends was committed to promoting and defending the Charter while continuing to work towards the full and effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. **Mr. Smith** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the special circumstances of small island developing States had been recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and in the plethora of global frameworks established since 2015, but the current crises had exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. CARICOM had long stressed that unsustainable fossil fuel practices in other parts of the world imposed an unjust environmental burden on small island development States. It therefore called for greater attention to be given to disaster risk reduction, including enhanced international cooperation for the Sendai Framework, and for a system capable of responding at scale and in an appropriate time frame to disasters.

58. For Caribbean countries, keeping the global temperature increase below 1.5° C was not an option, but a condition for survival. The international community had a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable, including small island developing States, for whom climate change was an existential threat, and the need for finance for loss and damage required global recognition. With its rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity, CARICOM was committed to the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, CARICOM would advocate for an ambitious plan to ensure that the vision of living in harmony with nature was fulfilled by 2050. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework must include adequate financing to support its implementation. CARICOM would be actively engaged in negotiating

the resolution entitled “Towards the Development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations”, since the region was a special case for sustainable development. It would also continue to engage constructively to advance the Samoa Pathway, prepare for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and support ongoing work to establish a multidimensional vulnerability index.

59. **Ms. Aldhidah** (Qatar) said that her country had made substantial human, social, economic and environmental development gains in line with its ambitious Vision 2030 plan. Its voluntary national reviews presented to the high-level political forum had detailed both its domestic efforts and its international partnerships. Qatar had received international recognition for its efforts to ensure access to quality education for children in conflict zones. The Qatar Fund for Development had made a number of new commitments in 2021 to fund development projects and humanitarian assistance, bringing its contributions to over \$551 million. It had contributed to COVID-19 relief in the most vulnerable States. Qatar also provided flexible funding to a number of United Nations agencies through bilateral and multilateral agreements. It had been a founding investor in the United Nations development system accelerator laboratories, to which it had just provided an additional \$10 million, bringing its overall total support to \$30 million. Her country would be hosting the second segment of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in New York in March 2023, and hoped that the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the first segment of that conference would foster fair, inclusive and sustainable development. Qatar also looked forward to hosting what would be the most environment-friendly World Cup in history in November 2022.

60. **Ms. Hasanova** (Tajikistan) said that her country had taken measures to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national policies and development plans but, despite substantial progress, significant risks existed, such as climate-related hazards and disasters, that could slow or reverse the realization of the 2030 Agenda and threaten agricultural productivity and food security. Official development assistance was therefore of paramount importance in supporting the sustainable development of developing countries, in particular those in special situations.

61. For Tajikistan, water and climate issues played a key role in policy. The past year had witnessed unprecedented water-related natural disasters around the world that had led to massive economic and infrastructural damage and the loss of thousands of

human lives. While struggling with the consequences of such disasters, the world had become increasingly aware of the importance of protecting and managing water resources. Tajikistan had long been an advocate of water-related action and had initiated both the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028. In 2022, the country had hosted the second High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in preparation for the midterm review of the Decade. The Dushanbe Declaration adopted at the Conference contained calls for the international community to establish new commitments and intensify action to achieve the goals of the Decade. The second United Nations Water Conference in 2023 would provide a further opportunity to review progress and evaluate the obstacles to achieving the goals. The impact of climate change on water resources also required concerted measures, with the accelerated melting of glaciers a key concern. Tajikistan had therefore promoted an integrated approach to addressing water and climate issues, including within the Water and Climate Coalition, which had proposed that 2025 be declared the international year of glacier preservation.

62. **Ms. Ramirez** (Mexico) said that her country was committed to the international sustainable development agenda and to the strengthening of regional, South-South and triangular cooperation. The Committee’s work must be linked to various United Nations process, and the results of forthcoming international summits on the Sustainable Development Goals, water and disaster risk reduction must serve as a catalyst for collective action.

63. Mexico had several priorities for the seventy-seventh session. First, synergies must be created between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in order to address the triple planetary crisis – climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss – taking into account gender and human rights issues. Second, climate action must be intensified to develop adaptation and mitigation policies, using nature-based solutions focused on ecosystems. Developed countries must fulfil their commitments on climate finance and create additional mechanisms for loss and damage. Third, an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework must be adopted to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2030 and ensure the effective conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems. Fourth, as a member of the High-level

Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, Mexico recognized the importance of promoting the integrated management of water resources, which were linked to soil conservation, food security, public health, tourism development and quality of life. Fifth, achieving Goal 6 on water had become an existential matter for life on Earth, and Mexico supported calls by more than 140 Member States for the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy on water. Sixth, Mexico reiterated its support for disaster risk reduction through efforts to identify vulnerabilities and build capacity for adaptation and resilience.

64. The recent entry into force of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) provided an opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean to guarantee the right of all people to a healthy environment. Multilateral cooperation and alliance-building were essential for a sustainable, green, inclusive and fair recovery and to tackle medium- and long-term challenges in order to reshape the development model.

65. **Mr. Abudu-Birresborn** (Ghana) said that the world was at a critical juncture on its path to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Recent global crises had made the task of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals more daunting but must not be allowed to deflate efforts. There was enough evidence to show that strong intervention during the COVID-19 pandemic had demonstrated the positive impacts of mitigation for vulnerable populations. In the midst of those challenges, Ghana had presented its second voluntary national review at the high-level political forum in 2022. For African nations, the Goals were a beacon of hope for sustainable development and essential for recovery, but in many parts of the continent progress was at a standstill or being reversed. Bold, coordinated, urgent action was therefore required.

66. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its twenty-seventh session in November 2022, must focus on adaptation, the 1.5° Celsius target, loss and damage and the need to scale up accessible funding. It must work on four key areas: first, to ensure that wealthy and highly polluting nations set up a dedicated funding mechanism for loss and damage; second, to establish an implementation plan for accelerated adaptation action to improve transparency, predictability and accountability in order to double adaptation finance by 2025; third, to urge major emitting nations whose emissions targets were not aligned with the 1.5° Celsius goal to review and strengthen their targets; and finally, to ensure that

climate finance responded to the needs of developing countries. The time for climate action was overdue.

67. **Mr. Rupende** (Zimbabwe) said that, notwithstanding the current global challenges, his country continued to align its five-year national development strategy with the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the long-term development objective of attaining upper-middle-income status by 2030. Institutional mechanisms continued to be strengthened to enhance the role of non-State actors, in particular in the implementation and monitoring of development programmes.

68. Having experienced the severe impacts of climate change, including a significant increase in extreme weather patterns, Zimbabwe had developed ambitious plans to tackle climate change. It expected countries responsible for the crisis to set an example at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by speeding up the allocation of \$100 billion in financing. Political will was required to implement commitments, including with regard to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. As a landlocked developing country, Zimbabwe placed a high priority on implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and continued to develop its infrastructure to lessen the burden of being landlocked. In addition, the country had set a target of producing more than 2,000 MW of renewable energy by 2030, since the transition to alternative energy would enhance the growth of the green economy and boost energy sustainability. Potential investors were invited to partner with Zimbabwe to accelerate various renewable energy sector projects that were in the pipeline.

69. The country's ambitions and commitments, however, continued to be hampered by the effects of unilateral coercive measures, and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights had recently called for the removal of sanctions on Zimbabwe by the European Union and the United States of America after her fact-finding mission to the country in 2021. She had stated that over-compliance with sanctions had had an insidious ripple effect on the economy, human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Zimbabwe therefore called for the sanctions to be lifted unconditionally and immediately in order to give the country a chance of fulfilling its development plans and achieving the Goals by 2030.

70. **Mr. Hossain** (Bangladesh) said that current lifestyles and patterns of production and consumption were driving climate change and polluting the

environment. UNEP had estimated that 1 million plastic bottles were purchased every minute and that 5 trillion single-use plastic bags were thrown away each year. There was a mutually reinforcing relationship between sustainable consumption and production and climate action.

71. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh had been on track to achieve many of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, but the pandemic, along with the climate crisis and geopolitical tensions, had affected progress, and bold actions were therefore required. First, a more just and inclusive global financial system that recognized the vulnerabilities of the least developed countries was needed to address economic uncertainty, an ever-shrinking fiscal space, stagnant or negative growth prospects and high levels of debt distress. It was necessary to bridge the financial divide and strengthen the financial safety net for vulnerable countries by aligning the international financial architecture with global development goals. Second, transformative climate action was urgently needed, and the agreement on transforming agrifood systems and the adoption of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on ending plastic pollution by means of a legally binding international agreement were therefore important steps forward. Third, countries needed to meet their emissions targets and provide \$100 billion in climate funds for developing nations. An ambitious climate financing agenda for both adaptation and mitigation must be set at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Fourth, although science, technology and innovation were expected to drive growth and play a catalytic role in the collective response to sustainable development challenges, the ability of low-income economies to meaningfully participate in and benefit from the technology-led, data-driven economy remained unattainable. Efforts were required to close the digital divide, which had become a new face of inequality, in order to ensure equitable access to sustainable technology.

72. **Ms. Babikyan** (Armenia) said that, despite the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the triple planetary crisis, the 2030 Agenda remained the blueprint for ensuring a sustainable, people-centred and inclusive recovery, including equitable access to health technologies and a special focus on the needs and priorities of vulnerable populations. The transformative measures set out by the Secretary-General for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals were appreciated by Armenia, especially with regard to mainstreaming youth issues, since the empowerment of

young people was one of the country's main priorities in terms of realizing their potential, supporting their entrepreneurial capacity-building and ensuring their engagement at the international and national levels. Another priority was to create favourable conditions for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in economic life, and Armenia had been working to bridge the gender digital divide, including by leading the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality.

73. As a mountainous country with fragile ecosystems, Armenia was committed to fostering environmental sustainability in efforts to address climate change and disaster risk reduction. In 2021, the country submitted its nationally determined contribution with the target of a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and the achievement of net zero emissions by 2050. Under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, Armenia contributed to the conservation and restoration of forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, having already planted over 1 million trees as part of its project to plant 10 million, and supported private and public initiatives to combat soil erosion and desertification and raise awareness about biodiversity preservation. Furthermore, Armenia prioritized the development of a low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive economy, with a special focus on energy production and consumption. Its energy sector strategy was designed to maximize the use of renewable energy to make the sector clean, sustainable and diversified.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.