

74th Session of the General Assembly

Summary of the General Debate of the Second Committee¹

7-8 October 2019, New York

The general debate of the Second Committee of the 74th session of the General Assembly convened from 7 to 8 October 2019. The meeting was opened by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang (Senegal). Keynote addresses were delivered by three speakers. Ten interventions were made on behalf of various groups.² Eighty-eight country representatives³ and two organizations⁴ also delivered statements.

H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Chair, highlighted the issues on which the Second Committee was expected to engage in dialogue and provide political guidance. Based on the five “Ps” of the 2030 Agenda—namely of people, planet, prosperity, partnership and peace—he related the work of the Committee to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also noted that at its organizational session on 2 October, the Committee had heard from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on the four interrelated megatrends of economic growth, inequality, climate change and technological innovation that are shaping the trajectory of sustainable development. The Chair looked forward to addressing all four issues during the forthcoming discussions of the Committee.

Mr. Patrick Keys, Senior Lecturer at Colorado State University, delivered a keynote speech on the theme “*Inclusive societies based on new economic models and sustainable use of natural resources*”. He discussed the prospect of a just and equitable future in the face of many challenges that accompany the emergence of an “Anthropocene age”. He described how during this stage human activity is unequivocally modifying the planet and its systems, including the water and carbon cycles, atmospheric chemistry, global temperatures, soils, and life in the oceans. In our efforts to reconcile sustainable development with the reality of our present world, he asserted that it is critical to understand Anthropocene risks, because they could have potentially very large consequences that are disconnected in time and space; where a policy intervention in one place could have a consequence somewhere else, with its effects being known only after time had passed. This observation is significant for the SDG, because as the world is rushing to achieve important and ambitious targets, the impacts of our changes on the Earth’s systems may not be known until well after the changes are made.

¹ The summary is prepared by the Secretariat for information.

² State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), Belize (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)), Malawi (on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)), Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)), Zambia (on behalf of the African States), Fiji on behalf of PSIDS, New Zealand (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ)), Paraguay (on behalf of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)), and the European Union.

³ Belarus, Sierra Leone, Russian Federation, Israel, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Argentina, Eritrea, Liechtenstein, United Kingdom, Algeria, Cuba, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Iceland, Norway, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sudan, China, Afghanistan, Morocco, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Panama, Qatar, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Nigeria, Honduras, Colombia, Zambia, United States, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Liberia, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Maldives, Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Greece, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Kenya, Mexico, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tajikistan, Ghana, Albania, Turkey, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Georgia, Romania, Senegal, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Armenia, Egypt, Kuwait, Botswana, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Cabo Verde, Guinea, Libya, Iraq, Peru, Chile, Togo, Ecuador, Bahrain, Ireland, Nepal, Haiti, Myanmar, Tunisia, Costa Rica, Serbia, India, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Timor Leste, Cameroon, El Salvador, and Holy See

⁴ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Environment Programme

Also speaking under the same theme, **Ms. Ashana Bigard**, Executive Director of the New Orleans Community Accountability Project, noted that Hurricane Katrina exposed the levels of extreme poverty and inequality in her city. Half the population could not attain basic necessities, while inequality prevented rebuilding with equitable representation by the poorest communities in the city, who had not been given a place at the decision-making table after the hurricane. The rebuilding process consequently did not provide sufficient access to public services such as hospitals, schools, and affordable housing. She recommended that all people be included in decision making processes and urged government leadership to consider the voices of the most vulnerable people impacted by disasters.

The final keynote speaker on the theme, **Mr. Eduardo Simas**, Brazilian farmer and member of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, said he had moved to rural Mirantão to explore rural poverty, discovering barriers such as poor access to schools and the justice system, underemployment and lack of youth opportunity among indigenous farmers. Mr. Simas highlighted the generosity of people living in poverty who had shared food without any expectation of return or payment. In his view, the inherent value in the act of sharing and giving unselfishly redefined the meaning of true wealth, and if societies could apply such practices more widely, then it would be possible to build a more just and sustainable economy based on reciprocity. The biggest challenge is to remove barriers so people can give of themselves for what is best in the world.

During the general debate, countries highlighted that while the Second Committee focuses on economic and financial matters, in this pursuit it needs to address many challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, and potential solutions towards sustainable development. Countries also focused on climate action and highlighted multilateralism, poverty eradication, leaving no one behind, financing for sustainable development, and rapid technological development and innovation. Some new proposals and initiatives on promoting sustainable development were announced in the statements.

2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

SDG Summit, Political Declaration, SDG Acceleration Actions, “a decade of action” and data

G77 and China, PSIDS, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Liberia, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, South Africa, Kenya, Myanmar, Peru and others welcomed the convening of the SDG Summit during the high-level week of the General Assembly in September 2019, marking the end of the first four-year cycle of the HLPF, and welcomed the SDG Summit as a good opportunity to reflect on progress and challenges.

G77 and China, PSIDS, Cameroon, Kazakhstan, Libya, Cameroon, Nepal, UNEP and others emphasized the importance of the Political Declaration adopted by consensus at the Summit. They stated that the Summit week set forth ambitious goals for the next decade in many aspects of sustainable development, reflected on the commitments taken by Member States during the Summit characterizing 2020 as a turning point, and stressed that the coming decade must be one of action and delivery.

Many countries highlighted that the SDGs are interlinked and indivisible. Concern was expressed that the international community is falling short on its agreed vision for sustainable development. **Switzerland** emphasized that 2030 Agenda is ever more integrated into the United Nations agenda, yet time is pressing to implement the Goals. **Georgia** recalled the Secretary-General's progress report on the SDGs, which stated that positive developments are not enough and called for far-reaching commitments and actions to generate practical solutions and accelerate progress.

Malaysia, Mexico, Tajikistan, Albania, Turkey, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Iraq, Bahrain, Ecuador, Serbia, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Guinea, Togo and others reiterated their commitments to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. **Saudi Arabia, Syria, Colombia, Lebanon, Tajikistan, Albania, Turkey, Georgia, Romania, Kuwait, Tunisia, Cameroon** and others stressed the alignment of their respective national development strategies, plans, and paradigms with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

CANZ, PSIDS, Bangladesh, Mexico and **Kazakhstan** underlined that development should ensure no one is left behind and called for further action to identify and address the barriers to development faced by indigenous peoples, women and girls, youth, minority groups, migrants and refugees, and promoting their enhanced participation in the UN system. **Bangladesh** stressed “development for all” as the motto to create prosperous societies.

The EU reiterated that human rights remain at the core of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. **CANZ** recognized the need to mobilize partnerships to generate investments to tackle a range of economic, social and environmental challenges and supported an active and central role for people with disabilities and their representative organizations in the achievement of all SDGs.

ASEAN countries highlighted their actions being taken to attain the SDGs, such as the development of a circular economy, the use of renewable energy, sustainable and integrated water resources management at all levels, sustainable management of natural resources and reduction of waste, and conservation of biodiversity. **Pakistan** emphasized that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work – development programmes must be tailored to the individual needs of Governments. **Cameroon** reflected on its 2019 VNR, which highlighted the need to address inequalities in education. **Morocco** highlighted that sustainable development requires further investment in human elements. **Zambia** called for showcasing regional and sub-regional efforts for SDG implementation and sharing of best practices and lessons learned, particularly among developing countries.

Yemen underlined that the development gains of some countries are faltering due to war, conflict and natural disasters, and said they need support. The **Democratic People’s Republic of Korea** noted that peace and sustainable development are inseparable.

Costa Rica highlighted the importance of recognizing that macroeconomic indicators do not necessarily reflect individual capacity to overcome poverty, access decent work, eliminate inequality, foster technological capacities, or effectively empower women. Moreover, **El Salvador** urged the UN System to develop transparent indicators and to develop tools to monitor the impact of sustainable development on various forms of economic development in cooperation with financial institutions. **Guatemala** and **Kenya** called for strengthening the global statistical capacity to produce reliable data to monitor progress and design appropriate public policies, empower women, and fight climate change. **Timor Leste** noted that investing in data and statistics capacities is vital to ensure resources are allocated to the right areas to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Effective partnerships across stakeholders and government development partners can also make positive contributions in this regard.

Poverty eradication and zero hunger

Many countries stressed that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda is critical to eradicating poverty and requires strengthening the means of implementation, as well as creating an enabling global environment for development. The **African Group, China, Pakistan, Liberia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Bolivia, Romania, Turkey, Uruguay, Costa Rica** and others reiterated the fundamental need to eradicate poverty to achieve the SDGs. They emphasized that poverty is the greatest challenge to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, negatively impacting marginalized groups including women and youth, and said that investment in infrastructure, education and health care must be

enhanced. **Kenya** expressed concern over the rise in world hunger and malnutrition. **Cameroon** urged Member States to achieve zero hunger for all.

Guinea, Togo, Tunisia, Serbia and Timor Leste discussed national efforts being taken to eradicate poverty. **Holy See** noted the importance of respecting universal human rights and human dignity in the fight to eradicate poverty. **Panama** as a middle-income country stressed that eradication of poverty should still be the main aim of the 2030 Agenda. Both poverty eradication and sustainable development will require significant effort at the national, regional and international levels. **Algeria** said that the United Nations must continue to back African countries as they invest towards eradicating poverty in one generation. **Mexico** called for going beyond GDP to measure poverty as a multi-dimensional phenomenon. **Afghanistan** said that poverty and income inequality are also on the rise, suggesting that more international cooperation is needed in this area.

Climate action

G77 and China, AOSIS, LDCs, CARICOM, CANZ, LLDCs, PSIDS, the EU, the African Group, Republic of Korea, Turkey and others highlighted that climate change is at the heart of achieving the SDGs, called for urgent action on climate change and encouraged the international community to enhance its cooperation.

Pakistan, Cuba, Sri Lanka, Maldives, South Africa, Greece, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, Kenya, Botswana, Guinea, Togo, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Peru, Togo, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Sudan, Honduras, Lao PDR, Morocco, Mongolia and others highlighted that climate change is one of the greatest global threats, and that tackling climate change and achieving sustainable development must be two sides of the same coin. They noted the increasing impacts of climate change as a threat to the future of humanity. They highlighted that the effects of climate change are disproportionately felt by developing countries including SIDS and African countries, affecting not only their development and employment but also their economic viability. Climate change is having a devastating impact on the planet through such effects as soil degradation, drought and famine, which are worsening economic recession.

Many countries praised the Climate Action Summit and the Youth Climate Summit, and their outcomes, stressed that the time for words had passed, and that action was now critical in order to mitigate the effects of further global temperature increase. Speakers encouraged the Second Committee to build on the momentum created by the GA Summit week to encourage all countries, especially the most industrialized, to step up their commitment to address climate change and its associated challenges, recalling the calls made by youth activists demanding that world leaders act to “step up, speed up and scale up” on climate action.

G77 and China stressed the need to address the growing problem of destruction of natural habitats. **PSIDS** highlighted the need to recognize the cross-cutting nature of climate change and security. The **United Kingdom** said that a high level of ambition is needed if any headway is to be made in tackling climate change, and that all climate meetings should seek to accelerate action. **Honduras** noted that climate change must be tackled in a holistic fashion and resources should be channeled towards innovative approaches. **Malaysia** called for reducing carbon emissions, planting and conserving forests, reusing and recycling. **El Salvador** noted the importance of strengthening endeavors to mitigate and adapt to climate change, particularly by harnessing the knowledge of local and indigenous communities. **Venezuela.**

Tunisia Cabo Verde, Nepal, Serbia and Timor Leste, and Tajikistan stressed that climate change increases countries’ need for financial aid and called for greater means of implementation for addressing climate change. **Botswana** called for facilitation of technology transfer, including South-South and triangular cooperation as well as support for climate finance.

Many countries including **Sri Lanka, Greece, Ethiopia, Mexico, Ghana, Albania, Romania, Senegal, Iran** and **Botswana** reiterated their commitments to fight climate change and called for the implementation of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The **Russian Federation** expressed its support to the Paris Agreement and Eurasian Economic Union to adapt national economies to climate change. **Sri Lanka** and others looked forward to the UNFCCC COP 25 to be convened in December 2019.

Delegations highlighted actions for combating climate change. **Romania** said they advanced the European Union agenda on climate change as well as on sustainable development as priorities during its mandate as President of the European Union Council in the first semester of this year. **Norway** pledged to redouble its contribution to the Green Climate Fund and step up its climate resilience efforts as a main component of its development assistance. **Iceland** pledged to share its knowledge of renewable energy, fisheries, land restoration and gender equality with the world. **Japan** committed to fight climate change by decarbonizing through measures and innovations. **India** noted that many countries have joined the International Solar Alliance, which is championed by France.

Japan, Ghana, Senegal and **Malaysia** reiterated their commitments to the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. **Maldives** focused on disaster risk reduction and called for more support to build resilience and undertake disaster risk reduction as agreed under the Sendai Framework. **The United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction** noted that disaster risk reduction is an effective tool to empower people and ensure inclusion and equality for all.

Science, technology and innovation

Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Ghana, United Arab Emirates and others championed the role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in implementing the 2030 Agenda, stressing that STI is critical in facilitating the implementation of the SDGs through national development agendas and bridging the digital divide, and called for advancements in ICTs to align with sustainable development. **Panama, Bangladesh, Ethiopia** and **Iraq** stressed that decisive political commitment is needed to mobilize resources, provide capacity building and transfer technology, and called for more support to developing countries.

Kazakhstan recalled the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), which indicates a lack of distributed progress across Member States. **Zambia** called for further strengthening of the science-policy interface for sustainable development and noted the lack of capacity to tax fast-growing digital economies. **Argentina** cited the pivotal role of science and technology in reducing poverty and inequality, and in this regard pointed to the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation that also respects the unique local features of countries and cities, noting that digitalization can offer multiple opportunities to speed up implementation.

Nepal cautioned that as the newest technological revolution unfolds, a new wave of marginalization is pending. **Costa Rica** noted the need to manage technological change in a way that closes the technology gap. **Zambia** called for improved reporting mechanisms, enhanced and inclusive data sharing mechanisms, and reduced digital gaps at the global level to benefit developing countries.

Switzerland called for cooperation in establishing a digital integrated world that capitalizes on new technologies. **Mexico** called on the Committee to consider in its discussions the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General's Panel on Digital Cooperation as well as for the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. **Turkey** stressed the importance of investing in STI for implementing the 2030 Agenda, and its support for strengthening the STI capacity for LDCs.

Lichtenstein said that the country has adopted comprehensive legislation for blockchain and other trustworthy technologies to maximize the opportunities and minimize the risk that these new technologies provide. **Colombia** stated that the country was championing business sectors and supporting the creative industries or “orange economy”.

Countries in special situations

Liberia, Libya, Tunisia and **Nepal** highlighted that countries in special situations, such as LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, MICs and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations need to be prioritized. They called for support to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by these countries.

AOSIS, CARICOM, PSIDS and **CANZ** noted the importance of this year for SIDS due to the midterm review of the SAMOA Pathway in September 2019. **Maldives** and **Kenya** welcomed the convening of the High-level Meeting on the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway, and called on countries to accelerate actions in this regard. **AOSIS** requested capacity building, transfer of technology, and access to finance in SIDS to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. **CARICOM** noted with concern the de-risking of CARICOM countries, which threatens to isolate countries from the global trading system, weaken economies, and increase levels of poverty. **Indonesia** said they are committed to a more strategic and structured partnership with SIDS, including through a regional partnership in the Pacific region. **Timor Leste** emphasized that countries in special situations, especially SIDS, require targeted solutions to address climate change.

LDCs, Philippines, and **Sierra Leone** highlighted the importance of poverty eradication and debt relief in LDCs and MICs, and called for development partners to fulfill and go beyond their ODA commitment of 0.15-0.20 per cent of GNI provided to LDCs. As Chair of the G7+, **Sierra Leone** emphasized that LDCs in fragile situations require specific measures that address their specific context. **LDCs** also noted with concern the risk that the benefits of frontier technologies may be unequally distributed and reinforce the digital divide which is exacerbating inequalities in LDCs. **Sierra Leone** discussed their national development plan, which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in their efforts to graduate from LDC status. **Ethiopia** underlined that LDCs require an enabling environmental and sufficient global support measures to reduce poverty through economic reform and diversification as well as structural transformation. **Turkey** recalled the establishment of the LDC Technology Bank, which marked the achievement of SDG target 17.8.

LLDCs mentioned challenges of high trade and transport costs, inadequate infrastructure, inefficiencies at border crossings and custom procedures, which are limiting export diversification and competitiveness. **Kazakhstan** reiterated the needs of the LLDCs, and **Botswana** recalled the Vienna Programme of Action and called for the acceleration of its implementation.

Guatemala called for financing for MICs. **Uruguay** noted that while its per capita income has increased and it has moved into the MIC category, this has also brought new challenges. There is still a need to tackle inequality and poverty. Moreover, **Cabo Verde**, as a MIC, noted its need for more equitable and tailored access to funding.

Iraq underscored its commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda, amid challenges of conflict and terrorism.

HLPF 2020, Review of the HLPF, and major events on SDGs in 2020

Armenia evaluated the ECOSOC and HLPF as mutually reinforcing platforms. **Chile** stated that it hoped the spirit of partnership between government, civil society, private sector and academia would continue to emerge during the HLPF review process.

Georgia, Libya, Nepal, Peru and India complimented the VNRs as valued national guides to create proper systems relevant for the implementation of the SDGs and announced their intention to conduct VNRs for the 2020 HLPF.

PSIDS reiterated their commitment to sustainable and healthy oceans, in view of the upcoming Second UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon, the regional Our Oceans Conference in Palau, the launch of the Ocean Science Decade, and the fourth round of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

United Arab Emirates stated that they would host EXPO 2020, which would serve as a platform for advancing the SDGs.

Addis Ababa Action Agenda

Stressing that the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, countries unanimously called for stronger financial mobilization, including from domestic sources and the private sector. **G77 and China**, the **African Group, LLDCs, Liberia, Yemen, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Greece, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico** welcomed the convening of the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development held on 26 September 2019 and urged all countries to implement the AAAA. **Ghana, Senegal, Botswana, Serbia and Ecuador** reconfirmed their commitment in this regard.

Cabo Verde stressed that it would not be possible to achieve the 2030 Agenda without accelerated progress on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (AAAA), and **Myanmar** emphasized that the commitments in the AAAA are critical and must be fulfilled. **United Arab Emirates** noted that sustainable development endeavors must respect the AAAA. **Democratic Republic of the Congo** called for substantive funding to meet the needs of implementing 2030 Agenda. **Ghana** recalled the shortage of financial flows to achieve the SDGs and called for the intensification of collective efforts by governments, public sectors and financial institutions. **Romania** stressed the crisis of insufficient funds for development in the context of the global economic and trade slowdown.

Many countries recognized the importance of international trade to finance development and achieve inclusive economic growth, including poverty eradication. They reiterated support for a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system. **Georgia** recalled the AAAA, noting that international trade acts as catalyst for achieving inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development.

China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Brazil, South Africa, Iraq, Venezuela, Tunisia and Cabo Verde called for developed countries to honour their ODA commitments, and **China** said that developing countries should forge greater solidarity and deepen South-South cooperation. **Cuba** suggested that an alternate financial architecture is needed. **Sudan** stressed that ODA should be ramped up and debt burdens lifted so countries can implement the SDGs. **Iraq** noted that ODA has a significant impact on progress in infrastructure, particularly for countries marred by war and terrorism. **The United Kingdom** stressed that major efforts must be made to ensure that aid is provided for people who need it the most. The **EU** noted it was the world's largest provider of ODA.

Liberia, Sri Lanka, Guatemala called for bridging the financing gaps to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by mobilizing domestic resources. **Philippines** underlined that access to external finance often decreases faster than can be compensated by increasing tax revenues. **Russian Federation**

announced its contribution of USD 1 billion 36 million toward debt relief for the poorest countries. **PSIDS** called for replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.

El Salvador expressed concern that countries in special situations cannot access affordable financing. **Afghanistan** called for strengthening the means of implementation and reinforcing partnerships as important for LLDCs. **Maldives** called for concessional financing for SIDS and other innovative financial instruments to reduce risk and support effective debt management.

CARICOM and **the Philippines**, on behalf of MICs, encouraged the international community to reconsider the metrics for determining access to financing, including consideration of a vulnerability index and the utilization of multidimensional indicators, beyond countries' per capita income or graduation status.

Belarus highlighted UNCTAD's role in interconnected measures for finance, technology and investment, and called upon the UN system to develop a strategy for cooperation with MICs. **Panama** added that countries entering the middle-income level face challenges, as sources of finance can be more difficult to obtain. **Honduras** noted that MICs are increasingly unable to access concessional and affordable financing and highlighted the need to measure poverty in multidimensional ways.

Countries also highlighted that attention should be given to strengthening partnerships to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and further stated that the engagement of the private sector is vital, especially in mobilizing and redirecting resources to this end. **Indonesia** encouraged promotion of innovative financing, such as blended financing, financial inclusion, and religious or socio-based financing. **Republic of Korea** highlighted that local communities, civil society organizations and academia are also important partners. The **United Kingdom** stressed that harnessing private and multi-stakeholder investment is critical for mobilizing resources. **Japan** stressed the importance of increasing the momentum for innovative financing through deepening discussions on good practices.

Brazil supported the engagement of private partners in helping implement and finance development as well as efforts to combat illicit financial flows. **Pakistan** stated that availability of resources in developing countries can be enhanced by combatting illicit financial flows and returning ill-gotten wealth and said that corruption must be fought at home and tracked down globally. **Ghana** emphasized its support to fight against illicit financial flows and tax evasion. **The Russian Federation** called for a more effective system to address tax evasion.

Globalization and international development cooperation

Movement of products, finance, trade, people and ideas

The **EU** and **PSIDS** noted that international trade is important for financing development, achieving inclusive economic growth, and eradicating poverty. **Honduras** noted the importance of a fair and rules-based trading system based on universal standards. **Lao PDR** called for a revitalized and resilient multilateral trading system and enhancement of regional and international cooperation. **South Africa** called for a rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO that is fair, equitable, inclusive and development-oriented and prioritizes Africa; they also called for the conclusion of the WTO's Doha Development Round and for the UN to deliver on the Third Decade for Industrial Development for Africa. **Malaysia** expressed hope for common ground on fair trade agreements. **Botswana** considered a fair and rules-based trading system a practical way of advancing progress and assisting developing countries to achieve development, and said that the African Continental Free Trade Area would boost intra-African trade and unleash the full potential of the regional integration process. **Myanmar** noted the emerging

trade tensions between the largest global economies. The **United States** said that technology transfer should occur on voluntary and mutually agreed terms.

Liechtenstein emphasized the need to address financial flows stemming from modern slavery and human trafficking, and stated their “Liechtenstein Initiative” equips the global financial sector to prevent and combat these crimes. **Bangladesh** called for the Rohingya crisis to be solved. **Syria** said the challenge of creating enabling conditions to permit refugees and displaced people to return home requires cooperation by the United Nations.

The **African Group** called for increasing international resource mobilization to achieve the SDGs, strengthening institutional and human capacities, and improving linkages between the planning, mobilizing and financing of a structural economic transformation. **China** stressed that States must oppose all forms of protectionism and unilateralism, working instead towards a multilateral framework and heeding the interests of the developing world. **Algeria** said international prospects do not seem bright, with slower global economic growth, trade tensions, and rising income inequalities and conflicts, which require a new focus on interlinkages to address them in a concerted manner. **Cuba** stated that the international system must not be used to legitimize unilateral measures taken by States.

Multilateral frameworks, global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies

Venezuela, Togo, Nepal, Tunisia, Guinea and **Ecuador** embraced multilateralism as an enabler to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. **Uruguay, Venezuela** and **Serbia** noted the importance of sharing the benefits of sustainable development, including with future generations. **Haiti** said that overcoming the challenges faced by the most vulnerable countries and achieving the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a holistic approach and collective action of States at all levels. **Libya** recalled that the SDG Summit’s Political Declaration stressed that implementing the 2030 Agenda requires strong cooperation between developed and developing countries. **El Salvador** and **Venezuela** highlighted that achieving the SDGs must be done by upholding common but differentiated responsibilities. **Nepal** emphasized the importance of national leadership.

Afghanistan said pressures on multilateral cooperation are hindering achievement of the SDGs. **Panama** said that cooperation is becoming even more crucial, given the current global backdrop, which strives to weaken multilateralism. Citing a wide range of United Nations-related summits, **Algeria, Kazakhstan,** and **Ireland** reaffirmed their commitments to multilateralism in attaining an economically equitable and sustainable global society. **Eritrea** said that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda demands solidarity. **Iran** cited recent setbacks to multilateralism and said the protectionist policies and embargos imposed by some countries cast doubt on the effectiveness of the multilateral system.

Romania highlighted the importance of a strong and confident multilateral system that empowers member States to realize the 2030 Agenda, the AAAA, and the Paris Agreement. Romania also highlighted the High-level Meeting on Partnerships for sustainable development, which called for accelerating SDG implementation through increased regional cooperation.

Bangladesh, Liberia, Sri Lanka, South Africa and **Ethiopia** underlined that the success of the 2030 Agenda depends on effective and strong partnerships through multilateral efforts with various partners. **Malaysia** called for the UN system to develop tailored incentives and frameworks in advancing partnerships. **Venezuela** stated that international cooperation and development should follow diverse models of assistance that account for national circumstances. **Costa Rica** urged member States to strengthen cooperation platforms to share knowledge on development. **Uruguay** noted that international cooperation is required to bring about structural and economic transformation. **Cameroon** restated its

commitment to bolster global partnership and global solidarity, in particular with the most vulnerable countries.

North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

G77 and China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Venezuela stressed support for South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation. **Brazil** and **Malaysia** called for further promoting South-South and triangular cooperation; **Malaysia** also called on the UN system to recognize the diversity and broad spectrum of South-South cooperation. **Sri Lanka, Brazil and El Salvador** welcomed the outcome of the Second High-level Conference on South-South cooperation held in March, which identified channels to achieve the 2030 Agenda. **Myanmar** recognized the increased contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation in the effective implementation of global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA.

Public-private partnerships

Sri Lanka and Albania said their governments engaged with stakeholders including civil society, academia, women and youth in formulating initiatives. **Romania** noted efforts to establish sustainable development units in their administration and create a civil society coalition for sustainable development. **Senegal** highlighted promotion of the engagement of the private sector in contributing to the SDGs. **El Salvador** noted the need to promote public-private partnerships and include all stakeholders. **Cabo Verde** has adopted a strategy plan for sustainable development with the main objective to create public-private partnerships to promote private investment in the economy. Iraq stated that it is seeking to form public-private partnerships, which can be drivers of development.

UN Reform and the repositioning of the UN development system

G77 and China, CARICOM, PSIDS, the African Group, Albania, Greece, Malaysia, Cabo Verde, Peru, Chile, Myanmar, India, Colombia and United Arab Emirates expressed support for the reform of the UN development system, especially in building capacities of developing countries and countries in Africa, in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty. **AOSIS** stressed the need to be consistent and coherent, and to build synergies across all processes to prevent duplication, silos, and unnecessary competition in the UN development system. The **African Group** called on all member States and non-State contributors to ensure predictable funding of the UN development system. **AOSIS** and **CARICOM** requested more UN Secretariat support for SIDS to fulfill evolving mandates.

Albania called for an integrated and system-wide approach to achieve the 2030 Agenda and make sure no one is left behind. **Guatemala** stressed the importance of strengthening the UN system to support countries with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. **Columbia** called for a transformative spirit to enhance cooperation and consultation. **Romania** stated that the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020 would provide an opportunity to step up the implementation of the Secretary-General's ambitious reform package.

Brazil welcomed a smooth transition to the repositioned Resident Coordinator system, noting that the initial results of enhanced coordination are becoming visible to donor and program countries, expressed concern about the sustainability of funds needed to support the new system, and called for fulfilling the mandates of resolutions 71/243 and 72/279. **Turkey** stressed that member States are collectively responsible for maintaining the new UN Resident Coordinator system, in which the Second Committee must play a constructive role.

Kazakhstan highlighted the growing importance of the regional dimension with the ongoing repositioning of UN development system, where the Resident Coordinators will revamp regional approaches. **Chile** hoped to see discussions continue at the global and regional levels for the reforms to meet all development needs.

Second Committee

CARICOM, AOSIS, Israel, Indonesia Liberia, Brazil, Malaysia, Greece, Botswana Japan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Romania, Monaco and Armenia noted the crucial role of the Second Committee in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realization of the AAAAA, the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway. The **EU, PSIDS, Israel and Lebanon** stated that the Second Committee should play a positive role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and discussing follow-up actions to achieve the SDGs. **Ghana** expressed hope that the Second Committee would inform actions that not only reflect the integrated nature of the SDGs, but also ensure that no one is left behind. **Botswana** regarded the Second Committee as an important mechanism to ensure the review process is conducted in collaboration with other UN entities, especially through the HLPF.

G77 and China highlighted the importance of adopting resolutions by consensus in the Second Committee that provide political guidance and address sustainable development from the perspective of challenges faced by developing countries. **Indonesia** said the Second Committee should focus on means of implementation—financing, technology transfer and capacity building—to secure and scale-up efforts to achieve the SDGs. The **Republic of Korea** called upon the Second Committee to address the issue of inequality in a holistic manner, and **Nigeria** requested that the problem of stolen assets and illicit financial flows be discussed.

CANZ and EU emphasized the need for early preparation of draft resolutions with possible budgetary implications, and stressed the need to respect deadlines and established working hours. **Malaysia and Mexico** said the Second Committee has the potential to have great impact on the ground, but must simplify its work and improve its efficiency. The **United Kingdom** encouraged the Second Committee to focus on areas where progress can be made. **Kazakhstan and Eritrea** called for the Second Committee to be pragmatic and adopt results-oriented resolutions.

Switzerland and the **United States** suggested the Second Committee should consider negotiating certain resolutions on a biennial or triennial basis. The **United States** also called for the Second Committee to establish clear benchmarks to ensure its work is conducted on time, follows best practices, and respects the independent mandates of different bodies, such as the World Trade Organization.

Many delegations welcomed the proposal of an informal working group that would consider issues related to improving working methods of the Committee, which would reflect on the elaboration of proposals for addressing gaps, overlaps, and duplications in the Committee's agenda. **PSIDS** stated that resolution 73/341 contains useful recommendations on enhancing synergies and coherence in the General Assembly and ECOSOC, and would continue to offer their support to the working group to ensure a successful revitalization process.

New proposals/initiatives announced in statements

- **Belarus** announced that it would organize its first National Sustainable Development Forum this year and would prepare for the first Forum on the Achievement of the SDGs in the Eurasian Economic Union.
- **Sierra Leone** highlighted the results of their national development plan, with SDG 4 and SDG 16 as accelerator goals. They also announced the creation of a Peace and National Cohesion Commission.
- **Indonesia** announced its plan to propose a resolution on an “International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development” in 2021.
- **Norway** is redoubling its contribution to the Green Climate Fund and stepping up its climate resilience efforts as a main component of development assistance.
- **Qatar** has committed USD 500 million to the 2030 Agenda as part of its UN partnership and will build systems to monitor its implementation of the SDGs.
- **Liechtenstein, Australia and the Netherlands** have launched a public-private partnership called the “Liechtenstein Initiative” to equip the global financial sector to prevent and combat crimes by means of sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment.
- **The US** is launching an initiative that will contribute to women’s development globally, contributing USD 50 million by 2025.
- **Argentina** is spearheading the establishment of the International Day of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Businesses on 27 June 2020.
- **Iceland** aims to become carbon neutral by 2040, and pledged to share its knowledge of renewable energy, fisheries, land restoration and gender equality.
- **Bangladesh** is focusing on diversifying the economy, exploring new markets, transforming its population into a skilled workforce and creating a technology-driven society in its effort to become a MIC by 2021 and developed country by 2041; Bangladesh is also building its first nuclear power plant, leveraging the principle of peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- **Maldives** have launched a five-year Strategic Action Plan and will soon launch a 10-year National Development Plan, together with a 20-year National Spatial Plan that maps out infrastructure and socio-economic development across the entire archipelago. Maldives will also undertake significant tax reforms and fight corruption to minimize public debt, with the Tax Administration Action approved last month and the Income Tax Act about to be finalized. Maldives also intends to contribute and participate constructively within the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- **Japan** aims to deepen discussions on the implementation of the Universal Health Coverage declaration, bearing in mind the Second UHC Forum in Thailand and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo next year.
- **South Africa** is working to revise its National development Plan, which guides development policy, legislation and investments to ensure that the country reaches carbon neutrality by 2050.
- **Greece** has already met its green-house gas reduction targets set for 2030, produces 20 per cent of electricity from renewables and intends to increase to 35 per cent by 2030. Greece is also drafting a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs with the participation of civil society.
- **Ethiopia** plans to promote sustainable and productive forestry for green economic growth by planting four billion trees within a year and half, as part of its 10-year afforestation program.
- **Malaysia’s** Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 aims to transform the country to a high-income, high-skilled labor force capable of attracting investments and opportunities. Malaysia is also taking steps to ensure that domestic palm oil production is certified sustainable by 2020.

- **Kenya** invited delegations to participate in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+25 or Nairobi Summit), co-hosted by Kenya, **Denmark** and UNFPA from 12 to 14 November 2019, to address critical issues in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- **Mexico** is working with **Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras** and ECLAC on formulating the Integral Development Plan to tackle the root causes of migration and promote agriculture and rural development.
- **Tajikistan** announced that it will host the second International Conference on the Implementation of the Water Action Decade in June 2020.
- **Turkey** announced three initiatives, namely "the Leadership Initiative for Local Climate Investment", "Zero Carbon Buildings for All", and "Climate Friend Transportation", and called for member States to support them.
- **Georgia** plans to host a special event on "Ensuring Equal Access to Justice for All for Achieving Sustainable Development" with UN partners later this year. Georgia will also host the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum 2019 from 22 to 23 October, which serves as an international platform for multilateral high-level dialogue.
- **Senegal** stated that it will host the next World Water Forum in 2021.
- **Uzbekistan** presented a draft resolution jointly developed with Central Asian States entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia," which would be tabled at the Second Committee under agenda item 19.
- **Timor Leste** announced that it would co-host the third annual Showcase Forum on SDG 16 Plus, in Dili later this year.