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United Nations

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the twenty-fifth session (28 March–1 April 2022)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

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Summary

At its twenty-fifth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development discussed the role of science, technology and innovation in building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. In addition, it considered the following two priority themes: "Industry 4.0 for inclusive development" and "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world". The session also included a segment on science, technology and innovation policy reviews, as well as the Bureau's assessment of the Commission based on inputs provided by Member States.

During the high-level round table on the theme "The role of science, technology and innovation in building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", Ministers and other high-level speakers reiterated the importance of using science, technology and innovation in achieving the goals under the 2030 Agenda. They remain concerned over the digital connectivity gaps evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic. To build forward better, enhanced international collaboration in scientific research and strengthened technological cooperation between Member States, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, through the transfer of technology and capacity-building, is key to deliver on the promises of sustainable development. A robust global development science, technology and innovation financing framework and increased science, technology and innovation -related official development assistance could be considered as well. Ministers called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to continue playing its role of being a cooperation platform.

In discussing the two priority themes, speakers, including ministers, shared various initiatives and activities that were carried out or being implemented and were aimed at leveraging the role of science, technology and innovation in industrial or urban development. They also called upon countries to enhance international cooperation, in particular through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to support developing countries, including least developed countries.

In considering the priority theme "Industry 4.0 for inclusive development", speakers, including ministers, pointed out that industry 4.0 technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and the Internet of Things, are expected to intensify automation and data-driven changes in manufacturing, increase productivity and reduce the environmental impact of industrialization. To benefit broadly from industry 4.0, developing countries need to strengthen their manufacturing sector. Some measures are critical enablers for ensuring that developing countries do not miss this new wave of technological change. They include mobilizing investment in digital infrastructure, building workforce skills for industry 4.0, developing ethical frameworks and guidelines for the adoption of industry 4.0 technologies, and international cooperation on exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Speakers, including ministers, in the session on the priority theme "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world" pointed out the numerous challenges facing countries, especially developing countries and least developed countries to attend the triad goals of liveability, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability of their urban areas. During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, science, technology and innovation has

substantially contributed to mitigating the adverse impact of COVID-19 on urban areas. Policymakers should seize the innovation momentum generated by the pandemic and adjust priorities and resource allocations to invest in science, technology and innovation solutions contributing to sustainable urban development. Collective action and collaboration at national and international levels are key to achieving urban sustainability.

In reviewing the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, speakers and participants, including ministers, stressed the need to close the connectivity gaps as early as possible, which include not only Internet coverage gaps, but also Internet use gaps. Internet should be seen as a global public good. While partnerships and collaboration are essential to achieving common international goals, the proliferation of multilateral forums makes it extremely difficult for developing countries to actively participate in decision making. Although today's information society differs greatly from what was envisaged in 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society's commitment to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society remains highly relevant and unfulfilled. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development plays an important role in identifying current and future challenges and opportunities related to information and communications technology.

The science, technology and innovation policy review of Zambia was launched during the presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews. Participants also discussed the initial findings of the science, technology and innovation policy reviews undertaken in Angola, with joint assistance from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Angola office; as well as in Botswana, with UNCTAD assistance. Speakers from beneficiary countries hoped that UNCTAD would continue assisting developing countries and least developing countries to enhance their science, technology and innovation policy-making capacity.

When considering the Bureau's assessment of the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the context of the Economic and Social Council review of its subsidiary bodies, Member States valued the work of the Commission as the focal point in the United Nations system on science, technology and innovation for development and appreciated the work undertaken by the secretariat. By discussing and analysing the challenges and impacts that science, technology and innovation have on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Commission facilitates and provides a space for consensus-building and dialogues to share good practices and lessons learned not only among the Member States but also with other stakeholders and relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms. The role of the Commission as part of the policy-making process of the United Nations (for example, through the negotiation of draft resolutions and decisions) distinguishes it from other mechanisms discussing science, technology and innovation for Sustainable Development Goals, such as the science, technology and innovation forum. The technical value of the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development through its annual sessions and intersessional panels, and there is a need to integrate the Commission's technical work into the policy negotiations in the Economic and Social Council. This could be achieved through even deeper and more regular contact between the Commission and the Council.

The Commission adopted two draft resolutions, entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development" and "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society".

The Commission selected the following as priority themes for consideration at its twenty-sixth session "Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production" and "Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution by science, technology and innovation".

Further information on the session of the Commission is available at https://unctad.org/topic/commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development.

[25 April 2022]

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2021/28 of 22 July 2021 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which the Assembly reaffirmed the World Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] and assessed progress made to date, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for the future,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 76/189 of 17 December 2021 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, in which the Assembly recognized the important role of information and communications technologies for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and called upon all stakeholders in the information and communications technologies sector, including Governments and the United Nations system, to fully consider the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as they strengthen their efforts to bridge the digital divides within and between developed and developing countries, with particular attention to the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as women and girls, and to ensuring affordable and reliable connectivity, the

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.
[2] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

promotion of digital access and digital inclusion, and the expansion of accessible and inclusive distance-learning solutions and digital health services,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, entitled "The age of digital interdependence", and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map for digital cooperation",[3] as well as the establishment of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology,

Taking note also of the aspects relevant to the World Summit of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda",[4] welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 as a basis for further consideration by Member States,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[5]

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for her role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Welcomes and urges* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

2. *Welcomes* the constructive and diverse inputs from all stakeholders in the overall review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the vision of the 10-year review of the World Summit beyond 2015;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitment made in General Assembly resolution 70/125 to close the digital divides between and within countries, including the gender digital divide, through efforts to improve connectivity, affordability, access to information and knowledge, multilingual content, digital skills and digital literacy, acknowledging specific challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs, and groups in vulnerable situations;

5. *Encourages* close alignment between the World Summit process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[6] as called for in General Assembly resolution 70/125, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

6. *Reaffirms* its understanding that the success of the 2030 Agenda will depend on increasing access to information and communications technology;

7. *Recognizes* that information and communications technology infrastructure is fundamental to achieving the goal of digital inclusion and that digital divides persist across income groups, age groups, geography and gender, and therefore recalls its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, target 9.c, which aims to

[3] A/74/821.
[4] A/75/982.
[5] A/77/62-E/2022/8.
[6] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strives to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020, and in this regard notes the importance of the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development;

8. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

9. *Notes with concern* that there are still significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, acknowledges that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divides, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of girls and women in the information society and women's access to new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development;

10. *Encourages* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to continue to give due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the respective mandates and existing resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/189;

11. *Welcomes* the holding of World Press Freedom Day, celebrated annually on 3 May, proclaimed by the General Assembly and led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

12. *Also welcomes* the holding of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, celebrated annually on 17 May and led by the International Telecommunication Union;

13. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions, regional World Summit review initiatives and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

14. *Recognizes* the value and principle of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception and that are clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and notes that many activities that support the objectives of the World Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented by Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and multi-stakeholder partnerships in their respective roles and responsibilities;

15. *Underscores* the importance of and encourages continued collaboration between the follow-up and review process of the World Summit and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

17. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

18. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of encouraging collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders, including international organizations, exchanging information among action line facilitators and other stakeholders, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process;

19. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the database;

20. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit into the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component, for which the United Nations Group on the Information Society has offered its assistance;

21. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit;

22. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 70/125, the General Assembly called for continuation of the annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Council, and reaffirms the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

23. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

24. *Welcomes* the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and broadband Internet has further accelerated during the pandemic, so that in 2021, 95 per cent of the world's population were living within range of a mobile broadband

network and 4.9 billion people or 63 per cent of the world's population were using the Internet, in line with the World Summit targets; the value of this progress is enhanced by the advent of new electronic and mobile services and applications for health, agriculture, education, business, development, financial and government services, civic participation and transactional services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

25. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, and promote digital literacy to bridge the digital and knowledge divides;

26. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and landlocked countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

27. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divides in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-, middle- and low-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

28. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment and emerging digital platforms and services is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

29. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

30. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital divide and the knowledge divide are also changing in character, from a divide based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive therefrom, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

31. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the vital importance of multilingualism and local content in the information society, and urges all stakeholders to encourage the creation of, and access to, educational, cultural and scientific content online so as to promote quality of access and ensure that all people and cultures can express

themselves and have access to the Internet in all languages, including indigenous languages;

32. *Recognizes* the importance of human capacity-building, an enabling environment and resilient information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, and assistance to countries in their efforts to strengthen the enabling role of information and communications technology for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

33. *Urges* a continued focus on maximizing development gains from e-commerce, through the eTrade for All initiative, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund;

34. *Recognizes*, in this regard, that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has initiated and implemented rapid e-trade readiness assessments of least developed countries in cooperation with other donors and organizations in order to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges related to leveraging e-commerce in the least developed countries;

35. *Takes note* of the *Digital Economy Report 2021* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which examines the role of cross-border data flows for development in maximizing equitable development gains, while minimizing risks and impacts of a potential fragmentation in the digital space;

36. *Welcomes* the holding of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 2022;

37. *Takes note* of the latest global report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, entitled *The State of Broadband 2021 – People-Centred Approaches for Universal Broadband*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for affordable and reliable broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

38. *Recalls* the launching by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development of the 2025 targets to support “connecting the other half” and to help to bring online the 3.8 billion of the world’s people who are not connected to the Internet;

39. *Recognizes* that the digital economy and emerging technologies have enormous potential for social good, the implementation of World Summit outcomes and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

40. *Welcomes* the many initiatives of United Nations organizations that support the implementation of the World Summit action lines, and encourages all action line facilitators to continue to work towards implementation of the action lines;

41. *Also welcomes* the work of the Information for All Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which aims to assist Member States in formulating policies to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable knowledge societies, and further welcomes the holding of Global Media and Information Literacy Week, from 24 to 31 October each year;

42. *Takes note*, in this regard, of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted on 23 November 2021;[7]

43. *Recognizes* the work of the International Telecommunication Union, including the holding of its Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 29 October to 16 November 2018, at which the membership reaffirmed its commitment to the common vision of a connected world, welcomes its work to support the deployment of broadband wireless networks in developing countries, including the training of local experts, and looks forward to the holding of the Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest from 26 September to 14 October 2022;

44. *Notes* the holding of the sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Policy Forum, organized by the International Telecommunication Union from 16 to 18 December 2021;

45. *Also notes* the holding of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva from 1 to 9 March 2022;

46. *Further notes* the holding of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Kigali from 6 to 16 June 2022;

47. *Notes* the holding of the eighteenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium, to be convened in 2023;

48. *Recognizes* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to promote digital inclusion and data and digital infrastructure in Africa and other regions to support poverty reduction and food security;

49. *Also recognizes* the work of the International Labour Organization on the impact on jobs caused by technological change;

50. *Further recognizes* the work of the Global Observatory for eHealth of the World Health Organization, including its consideration of how m-health, telehealth, electronic health records and e-learning can contribute to the goals of universal health coverage;

51. *Recognizes* the work of the United Nations Development Programme, including the publication of its Digital Strategy, which is aimed at applying the potential of digital technology to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

52. *Recalls* the publication of the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies on how the United Nations system will support the use of new technologies to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to facilitate their alignment with the values enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the norms and standards of international law;

53. *Reiterates* the commitment to harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accordingly urges all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and

[7] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Forty-first Session, Paris, 9–24 November 2021*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, annex VII.

requests United Nations system entities facilitating the World Summit action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

54. *Notes with great concern* the fact that while the digital gender divide has been narrowing on a global level – 57 per cent of women are now using the Internet compared with 62 per cent of men – women remain digitally marginalized in many of the world's poorest countries, draws attention to the gender digital divide, which persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, calls upon Member States to adopt all appropriate measures, especially by significantly enhancing women's and girls' education and participation in information and communications technologies, as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders;

55. *Notes* the many initiatives targeted at closing the gender digital divide, including, among others, International Girls in ICT Day (International Telecommunication Union), the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age (the EQUALS initiative), the EQUALS in Tech Awards (International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), the eTrade for Women Network (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Women on the Homepage (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Global Survey on Gender and Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Broadband Commission Working Group on Broadband and Gender, the Best Practice Forum on Gender and Access of the Internet Governance Forum, the work being done in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum on gender issues and the work of the World Bank in a number of countries promoting opportunities for women and girls in information and communications technologies, as well as the work of many other stakeholders on this issue;

56. *Reaffirms* the commitment to pay particular attention to the unique and emerging information and communications technology challenges facing all countries, in particular developing countries, as envisaged in the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

57. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

58. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support, with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

59. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating and adapting to climate change, disaster response, social networking, cultural and linguistic diversity, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, community networks,

cybersecurity, the gender gap, the protection of privacy and freedom of expression as defined in articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[8] and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

60. *Reaffirms* that, in the outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit action lines, the General Assembly called for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum to be held annually,[9] and recognizes the value of the Forum in enhancing cooperation, partnership, innovation and the exchange of experiences and good practices by all stakeholders in information and communications technologies for sustainable development;

61. *Notes* the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2021, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union and jointly organized by the Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development from 17 to 21 May 2021, under the theme "Information and communications technologies for inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies and economies: World Summit on the Information Society action lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals", also notes the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 from 30 May to 3 June 2022, under the theme "Information and communications technologies for well-being, inclusion and resilience: World Summit on the Information Society cooperation for accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals", and further notes the open consultation process, which aims to ensure wide participation in and broad ownership of the Forum;

62. *Encourages* action line facilitators to use the Geneva Plan of Action[10] as the framework for identifying practical measures to use information and communications technologies to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda, noting the World Summit on the Information Society-Sustainable Development Goals Matrix, developed by United Nations agencies;

63. *Encourages* World Summit action line facilitators to ensure close alignment with the 2030 Agenda when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the World Summit, according to their existing mandates and resources;

64. *Reiterates* the importance of the call by the General Assembly for all stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into approaches to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and its request to United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Internet governance

65. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

66. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[11]

[8] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[9] See General Assembly resolution 70/125.
[10] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[11] See A/60/687.

67. *Further reaffirms* paragraphs 55 to 65 of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

Enhanced cooperation

68. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not have an impact on international public policy issues;

69. *Notes* the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125, to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, and also notes that the Working Group ensured the full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise;

70. *Also notes* that the Working Group held five meetings between September 2016 and January 2018, at which it discussed inputs from Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125;

71. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Working Group,[12] which includes references to the full texts of all proposals and contributions, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and all participants who submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

72. *Welcomes* the good progress made by the Working Group in many areas and the fact that consensus seemed to emerge on some issues, while significant divergence of views on a number of other issues persisted, and in that regard regrets that the Working Group could not find agreement on recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda;

Internet Governance Forum

73. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

74. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/125, to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further 10 years, during which time the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries;

75. *Recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

76. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 70/125, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission;[13]

[12] See E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3.
[13] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1.

77. *Notes* the holding of the sixteenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, organized in Katowice, Poland, from 6 to 10 December 2021, under the theme "Internet united";

78. *Looks forward* to the holding of the seventeenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum and the continued implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, that are applicable to its preparatory process;

79. *Welcomes*, in that context, the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by both national and regional Internet governance forums;

The road ahead

80. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to continue to actively cooperate in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda;

81. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to reliable and affordable broadband at the grass-roots level, including through participative models, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries towards building information and knowledge societies;

82. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divides;

83. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to promote an enabling policy environment for investment and to foster public-private cooperation and partnership for sustainable investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, applications and services, content and digital skills, with the aim of ensuring the meaningful connectivity needed to advance the Sustainable Development Goals;

84. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

85. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[14]

86. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators in open data format as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the

[14] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, emphasizes the importance of the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators, and stresses the value of gender-disaggregated data to contribute to the bridging of the digital gender divide;

87. *Acknowledges* the importance of digital measurement and monitoring tools that support the deployment and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

88. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at all levels, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

89. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) Encourages Member States to develop and put in place data infrastructure at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(b) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on sustainable development;

(c) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the *Measuring Digital Development* series, which provides information on recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

(d) Encourages the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development to continue the follow-up on the relevant decisions of the Statistical Commission on information and communications technology statistics for the purposes of producing high-quality and timely information and communications technology statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics;

90. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United States of America to this fund;

91. *Recalls* the proposal in General Assembly resolution 70/125 that the Assembly hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2025, and invites the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in consultation with Member States and other relevant United Nations entities, to present to the Commission at its twenty-

sixth annual session a draft road map outlining the preparations for the contribution of the Commission to the overall review;

92. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the related discussion of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-fifth session, and acknowledges the role of the Commission as the focal point for the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

93. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divides, taking into account the considerations of developing countries, gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

94. *Calls for* continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisaged in the Tunis Agenda;

95. *Highlights* the ongoing discussions on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map for digital cooperation" and the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda" relevant to the World Summit, and in this regard calls for further transparent and inclusive consultations with Member States and all relevant stakeholders on the way forward, consistent with the World Summit outcomes;

96. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit.

Draft resolution II
Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development, and as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation as enablers of development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[2] and General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also the entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[3]

Recalling further that in its resolution 76/205 of 17 December 2021, the General Assembly acknowledged that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries and emphasized the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity,

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[2] General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 74/229 of 19 December 2019 and 76/213 of 17 December 2021 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies and ensuring that such policies and programmes are supportive of national development agendas,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2021/254 of 22 July 2021 providing for the extension, until 2025, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 70/132 of 17 December 2015 and 70/213 and 70/219 of 22 December 2015 addressing, respectively, the barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session,[4] in which it, inter alia, highlighted the need for managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment, particularly to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for economic empowerment in the changing world of work,

Recalling further the outcome document of the forum entitled "Investment in women and girls in science for inclusive green growth", held in New York on 11 and 12 February 2019 to commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science,[5]

Recalling the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation at the workshop held in Vienna on 18 January 2019, and during the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on 21 May 2021, as well as the work of the Commission on tackling science, technology and innovation from a development perspective, including seminars and workshops on science, technology and innovation organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat of the Commission,

Taking note of the importance for science, technology and innovation development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divides, particularly the digital gender divide, as addressed by the EQUALS global partnership and the #eSkills4Girls initiative of the Group of 20,

Encouraging initiatives that promote the role of women in science, technology and innovation in developing countries, including the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards, the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World Early Career Fellowships for women and the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence for women,

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7* (E/2017/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[5] A/73/798, annex I.

Recognizing that capabilities, such as basic education and science, technology, engineering and mathematics, design, management and entrepreneurial skills, are central for effective innovation, but are unevenly distributed across countries, and that the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels are essential and should be promoted, prioritized and coordinated, in order to create a social environment conducive to the promotion of science, technology and innovation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies in the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation, along with information and communications technologies, as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and recalling also the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

Highlighting the contribution that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development can make to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, bearing in mind its mandate to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders for achieving Sustainable Development Goals supported by science, technology and innovation,

Recalling that, in its resolution 72/228 of 20 December 2017, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission to promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development,

Recalling also that, in the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission to discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means of attracting new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate,

Noting that rapid technological change can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda by improving real incomes, enabling faster and wider deployment of novel solutions to economic, social and environmental obstacles, supporting more inclusive forms of participation in social and economic life, replacing environmentally costly modes of production with more sustainable ones and giving policymakers powerful tools to design and plan development interventions,

Noting also that new technologies create new jobs and development opportunities, thus increasing the demand for digital skills and competencies, and underlining the importance of building digital skills and competencies so that societies can adapt to and benefit from technological changes,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 72/242 of 22 December 2017, 73/17 of 26 November 2018 and 75/316 of 17 August 2021, in which the Assembly requested the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to give due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological

changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within their respective mandates and existing resources,

Taking note of the *Technology and Innovation Report 2021* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which examines the possibility that frontier technologies, although essential for sustainable development, can widen existing inequalities and create new ones,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Industry 4.0 for inclusive development" and "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world",

Recalling the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews that has been developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist countries in better aligning science, technology and innovation policies with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,[6]

Recognizing the need for innovation approaches that respond to the needs of poor, grass-roots and marginalized communities in developing and developed countries, while protecting their personal data from misuse and respecting the ownership of personal data, that involve them in innovation processes and that embed capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as a crucial component of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between the relevant ministries and regulatory bodies,

Recognizing also the importance of data protection and privacy in the context of science and technology for development,

Recognizing further that technology foresight and assessment exercises, including gender-sensitive and environmentally sensitive technologies, could help policymakers and stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in view the wider socioeconomic context,

Recognizing that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems[7] play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing also the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[8] including the principles referred to therein,

Recognizing the need to mobilize and scale up financing for innovation, especially in developing countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing also that people around the world are affected by shocks, from economic crises to health emergencies, from social conflicts and war to disasters caused by natural hazards, and that these shocks have a severe impact on the progress towards achieving sustainable development,

Recalling that, in its resolution 74/306 of 11 September 2020, the General Assembly called upon Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote research and capacity-building initiatives, as well as to enhance cooperation on and

[6] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2019/4.

[7] The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

[8] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, especially with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner and on mutually agreed terms in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the contribution of science, technology and innovation towards mitigating the sustainability challenges facing urban societies in a COVID-19 recovery and subsequent development,

Recognizing also the contribution of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities by empowering and giving a voice to people, including those in a vulnerable situation, through, among others, extending access to education and health, monitoring environmental and social risks, connecting people, enabling early warning systems, driving economic diversification, and economic development, while considering negative effects on the environment,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that science, technology and innovation policies must be aligned to address the three dimensions of sustainable development, specifically, economic development, social progress and environmental protection,

Taking into consideration that traditional knowledge can be a basis for technological development and the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Taking into account that industry 4.0 provides developing countries with a window of opportunity for technological upgrading and economic catch-up,

Encouraging the design and implementation of public policies that address the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest in and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth, incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Noting also various ongoing and future initiatives related to science, technology and innovation to explore important issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting

infrastructure development, including smart infrastructure, through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To encourage and support the science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access, to all people, particularly women, girls and youth, and persons with special needs and from remote and rural communities, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to accelerate the growth in the number of new Internet users and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such products and services;

(iv) To undertake systemic research, including gender-sensitive aspects, for foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(v) To work, with input from a variety of stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies and all relevant entities and forums, such as the Commission and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, to formulate, adopt and implement science, technology and innovation policies aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Goals;

(vi) To continue giving due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within their respective mandates and existent resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 72/242, 73/17 and 75/316;

(vii) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long terms and address such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of gender-responsive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, vocational training and digital and data literacy;

(viii) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues, such as the changing nature of work and building consensus on future policies, and to help to meet current and emerging demands for competence and adaptation to change;

(ix) To incorporate the provision of digital competencies, including, but not limited to, entrepreneurship and complementary soft skills, in formal education curricula and lifelong learning initiatives, while taking into consideration best practices, local contexts and needs, and ensuring that education is technology-neutral;

(x) To address the implications of fundamental changes in the digital economy, and industry 4.0, for labour markets;

(xi) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(xii) To conduct technology assessment and foresight exercises as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders towards creating a shared understanding of the implications of rapid technological change;

(xiii) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation into the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xiv) To conduct assessments, including of gender-sensitive aspects, of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States, and, on a voluntary basis, to provide financial support and expertise towards the implementation of the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in interested developing countries;

(xv) To recognize the need to promote the functional dynamics of innovation systems and other relevant methodologies based on diversified policy instruments to support science, technology and innovation development priorities, in order to strengthen the coherence of such systems for sustainable development;

(xvi) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach, including gender-responsive approaches, to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda;

(xvii) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship and making available disaggregated data sources for science, technology and innovation;

(xviii) To implement initiatives and programmes that encourage and facilitate sustainable investment and participation in the digital economy;

(xix) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability, encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;

(xx) To promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and statistical literacy, particularly among female students, while also recognizing the importance of complementary soft skills, such as entrepreneurship, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields, as well as applying a gender lens when developing and implementing policies that harness science, technology and innovation;

(xxi) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South as well as South-South cooperation, as complementary to but not substituting for each other, by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(xxii) To encourage countries to progressively increase the rate of generation of high-quality skilled human resources at all levels by providing an environment for building a critical mass of human resource capacity, harnessing and effectively participating in the application of science, technology and innovation for value addition activities, solving problems and enhancing human welfare;

(xxiii) To increase support for research and development activities on rapid technological change and ensure the coherence of science, technology and

innovation policies and strategies on rapid technological change with the broader national development agenda;

(xxiv) To consider engaging in an inclusive global discourse about all aspects of rapid technological change and its impact on sustainable development;

(xxv) To design and implement science, technology and innovation policies and other relevant policies to make them responsive to building resilient communities, giving priority to the science, technology and innovation suggestions that offer value for money and more efficient spending, focusing on activities that boost urban resilience;

(xxvi) To support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xxvii) To encourage the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local communities, women and youth, to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

(xxviii) To support the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a mechanism to improve the scientific research and innovation base of least developed countries, promote networking among researchers and research institutions, help least developed countries to gain access to and utilize critical technologies, draw together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector and implement projects that contribute to the use of science, technology and innovation for economic development in least developed countries;

(b) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues, and in this regard to contribute to informing the high-level thematic debate on the topic of the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, and to the discussion of progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 73/17 and 75/316 that will be held at its seventy-seventh session;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation as enablers in the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies;

(iii) To consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;

(v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[9] international cooperation in the field of science and technology for

[9] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(vi) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(vii) To support multi-stakeholder collaboration in policy learning capacity-building and technology development, including to support the participation of actors in the innovation systems of Member States in international networks and programmes to continue to build their capacity in innovation;

(viii) To support efforts to build capacity to develop, use and deploy new and existing technologies in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

(ix) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (a) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (b) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(x) To explore ways and means of conducting international technology assessments and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies and their implications for sustainable development and building resilient communities, including discussions about models of governance for new areas of scientific and technological development;

(xi) To support countries in their efforts to identify future trends in terms of capacity-building needs, including through foresight exercises;

(xii) To discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(xiii) To promote capacity-building and cooperation in research and development, in collaboration with relevant institutions, including appropriate United Nations agencies, working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

(xiv) To provide a forum for sharing not only success stories and best practices, but also failures and key challenges and learning from the results of foresight exercises, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities, including through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xv) To continue to play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the 2030 Agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United

Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(xvi) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant forums;

(xvii) To strengthen and deepen collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, including sharing good practices and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation, and, in this context, to follow up on the work done by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at the workshop on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation, held in Vienna on 18 January 2019;

(xviii) To play an active role in creating awareness of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;

(c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To implement as widely as possible its framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals, including a specific focus on bottom-of-the-pyramid approaches to innovation, and on social inclusion;

(iv) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(v) To request the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

(vi) To also request the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to develop proposals for its updated work programme and report thereon at the twenty-sixth annual session of the Commission;

(vii) To encourage Governments to use the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a mechanism to support science, technology and innovation in least developed countries and to assist least developed countries to further develop their own technologies.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-fifth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission as set out below:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Science and technology for development: priority themes:

(a) Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution by science, technology and innovation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 11* (E/2022/31).

Chapter II
Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 4th meeting, on 31 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/77/62-E/2022/8);

(b) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the intersessional panel meeting, held in Geneva in a hybrid format, from 17 to 19 November 2021 (E/CN.16/2022/CRP.1).

4. At its 4th meeting, on 31 March, the Commission held a high-level round table, which was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Hungary).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Head of the secretariat of the Commission introduced the report of the Secretary-General.

6. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union, Malcolm Johnson; Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Maria-Francesca Spatolisano; Olaf Kolkman, on behalf of the Vice President, Institutional Relations and Empowerment, Internet Society, Constance Bommelaer de Leusse; and Senior Director and Chief of Staff, United Nations Affairs, Microsoft, Lani Cossette.

7. Also at the same meeting, a ministerial discussion ensued, in which the following participants took part: Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt, Amr Talaat; Minister of Information and Communication Infrastructure, Gambia, Ebrima Sillah; Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Chris Philp; and Undersecretary for Research and Development, Philippines, Rowena Cristina L. Guevara.

8. A statement was also made by the representative of Hungary.

Action taken by the Commission

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

9. At its closing plenary meeting, on 1 April, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Hungary) and circulated in an informal paper in English only. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

10. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III
Science and technology for development

Priority themes:

(a) Industry 4.0 for inclusive development

(b) Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world

11. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 28, 29 and 30 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on industry 4.0 for inclusive development (E/CN.16/2022/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world (E/CN.16/2022/3);

(c) Report on the intersessional panel meeting, held in Geneva in a hybrid format, from 17 to 19 November 2021 (E/CN.16/2022/CRP.1).

12. At its 1st meeting, on 28 March, the Commission held a high-level round table on the 2022 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the following participants took part: Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dominican Republic, Franklin García Fermín; Minister of State, Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences of India, Jitendra Singh; Minister of Education and Science, Latvia, Anita Muižniece; Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Pakistan, Shibli Faraz; Minister of Science and Technology, Philippines, Fortunato T. de la Peña; and the representative of the United States of America. The high-level round table was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Dominican Republic).

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 29 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the first priority theme "Industry 4.0 for inclusive development", which was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Portugal).

14. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD and Head of the secretariat of the Commission introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the first priority theme (E/CN.16/2022/2).

15. Also at the same meeting, the Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of External Relations and Policy Research, UNIDO, Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, delivered a keynote address.

16. Presentations were also made by the following panellists: Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development and Professor of Technology and International Development at the University of Oxford, Xiaolan Fu; Professor of Economics at Seoul National University, Keun Lee; Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bharat Light and Power, Tejpreet S. Chopra; and National Coordinator of the Women's Entrepreneurship Program, Brazilian Agency for Small Business Development, Renata Malheiros Henriques.

17. Also at its 2nd meeting, a ministerial discussion ensued, in which the following participants took part: Minister of Science and Technology, Philippines, Fortunato T. de la Peña; Head of the Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency, Turkey, Ali Taha Koç; Minister of Technology and Science, Zambia, Felix Mutati; Undersecretary of Innovation, Research and Technology Transfer, Ecuador, Doralisa Niachimba; and

Secretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization of Romania, Tudor Prisecaru.

18. Statements were also made by the representatives of Cuba, China and the United States of America.

19. A statement was also made by a representative of the International Telecommunication Union.

20. At its 3rd meeting, on 30 March, the Commission held a high-level panel on the second priority theme, “Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world”, which was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Gambia).

21. At the same meeting, the Head of the Science, Technology and Information and Communications Technology Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the second priority theme (E/CN.16/2022/3).

22. Also at the same meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Maimunah Mohd Sharif, delivered a keynote address.

23. Presentations were also made by the following panellists: Mayor of Recife, Brazil, João Henrique Campos (delivered by Rafael Dubeux, Secretary of Economic Development, Science, Technology and Education, city of Recife, on behalf of the Mayor); Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey, Fatma Şahin; Chief Executive Officer Atlantic International Research Centre, Portugal, Miguel Belló; and President of Future Cities Council, Canada, Oualid Ali.

24. Also at its 3rd meeting, a ministerial discussion ensued, in which the following participants took part: Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Nepal, Devendra Paudel; Secretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization of Romania, Tudor Prisecaru; Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology of Botswana, Douglas Letsholathebe; Undersecretary for Research and Development of the Philippines, Rowena Cristina L. Guevara; Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, India, Srivari Chandrasekhar; Minister of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry, Seychelles, Devika Vidot; and Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Uganda, Monica Musenero.

25. Statements were also made by the representatives from Portugal, Thailand, the United States of America, Peru and Panama.

26. A statement was also by the Observatory on Digital Communication.

Action taken by the Commission

Science, technology and innovation for development

27. At its closing meeting, on 1 April, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Gambia) and circulated in English only. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

28. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Chapter IV
Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

29. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 5th meeting, on 1 April.

30. The Chief of the Science, Technology and Information and Communications Technology Branch of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD gave a presentation on the preliminary findings of the science, technology and innovation policy reviews of Botswana and the study on innovation and entrepreneurship of Angola.

31. Remarks were made by the following Ministers: Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Botswana, Douglas Letsholathebe; and Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola, Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo.

32. Remarks were also made by the Minister of Technology and Science of Zambia, Felix Mutati, to launch of the science, technology and innovation policy review report of Zambia.

33. At this same meeting, the Commission heard the presentation from the Vice-Chair (Hungary) on the Bureau's assessment of the work of the Commission based on comments received from its members.

34. Following this presentation, statements were made by the representatives of China, Japan, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and Portugal.

Chapter V

Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission

35. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at the closing plenary meeting, on 1 April 2022.

36. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its twenty-sixth session:

Vice-Chairs:
Muhammadou M.O. **Kah** (Gambia)
Peter **Major** (Hungary)
Ana Cristina **Amoroso das Neves** (Portugal)
Mansour **Al-Qurashi** (Saudi Arabia)

37. The Commission postponed the election of the Chair from the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Chapter VI
Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission

38. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at the closing plenary meeting, on 1 April. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-sixth session.

39. The Commission adopted the priority themes for the twenty-sixth session and the draft decision to be submitted to the ECOSOC concerning the report of the twenty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-sixth session. It also decided to recommend the decision to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

40. A statement was made by the representative of the United States of America before the adoption of the priority themes.

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-fifth session

41. At the closing plenary meeting, on 1 April, the Chair of the Commission informed members that the report of the session would be prepared after the conclusion of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and would include a summary of the session, the draft resolutions and decision for adoption by the Council and procedural matters. The Commission recommended to the Council that it take note of the report of the Commission on its twenty-fifth session, through a draft decision adopted at the closing plenary meeting on 1 April 2022 (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

42. The Commission held its twenty-fifth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 28 March to 1 April 2022. The Commission held five meetings (1st to 5th).

43. On 28 March, the twenty-fifth session of the Commission was opened by the Chair, Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia).

44. During the opening plenary, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union made statements.

45. The Commission also heard a video message from the President of the Economic and Social Council, Collen Vixen Kelapile.

46. At its 1st meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion entitled “A conversation with great minds”, which was moderated by Imogen Foulkes, BBC correspondent in Geneva. The panellists were: Professor at Université de Montréal, Canada, Yoshua Bengio; Professor Emerita at Harvard Business School, United States of America, Shoshana Zuboff; Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States of America, Daron Acemoglu; and Honorary Professor, University College London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Carlota Perez.

B. Attendance

47. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2022/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

48. Nominations for the Chair and other officers for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission were considered under silence procedure, in accordance with Council decision 2021/213.

49. The Commission elected, under a silence procedure that ended on 10 December 2021, the following officers for its twenty-fifth session:

Chair:
Mansour **Al-Qurashi** (Saudi Arabia)

Vice-Chair:

Genaro **Rodríguez Martínez** (Dominican Republic)

50. The Commission elected, under a silence procedure that ended on 21 May 2021, the following officers for its twenty-fifth session:

Vice-Chairs:
Muhammadou M.O. **Kah** (Gambia)
Peter **Major** (Hungary)
Ana Cristina **Amoroso das Neves** (Portugal)

D. Agenda and organization of work

51. At its 1st meeting, on 28 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.16/2022/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.
3. Science and technology for development:

   Priority themes:

   (a) Industry 4.0 for inclusive development;

   (b) Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-fifth session.

52. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work as contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

E. Documentation

53. The list of documents before the Commission at its twenty-fifth session is contained in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its twenty-fifth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2022/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
A/77/62-E/2022/8	2	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
E/CN.16/2022/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on industry 4.0 for inclusive development
E/CN.16/2022/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world
E/CN.16/2022/CRP.1[a]	3	Report on the intersessional panel meeting (17–19 November 2021)
E/CN.16/2022/INF/1		List of participants

[a] Available at https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecn162022crp1_en.pdf.

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