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Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. David Mulet Lind (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see [A/74/381](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 22nd and 26th meetings, on 14 and 27 November 2019. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/74/L.36](#) and [A/C.2/74/L.36/Rev.1](#)

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 14 November, the observer for the State of Palestine, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [73/5](#) of 16 October 2018, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" ([A/C.2/74/L.36](#)).

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 13 parts, under the symbols [A/74/381](#), [A/74/381/Add.1](#), [A/74/381/Add.2](#), [A/74/381/Add.3](#), [A/74/381/Add.4](#), [A/74/381/Add.5](#), [A/74/381/Add.6](#), [A/74/381/Add.7](#), [A/74/381/Add.8](#), [A/74/381/Add.9](#), [A/74/381/Add.10](#), [A/74/381/Add.11](#) and [A/74/381/Add.12](#).

¹ See [A/C.2/74/SR.22](#) and [A/C.2/74/SR.26](#).



3. At its 26th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development” ([A/C.2/74/L.36/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.36](#).
4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.36/Rev.1](#) had no programme budget implications.
5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.36/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 126 to 2, with 49 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:²

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstentions:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. Also at the 26th meeting, after the vote, the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), Canada and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote.
7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

² The delegation of Turkey subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)⁵ and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁶ as well as all relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the resulting processes for the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the realization of sustainable development, and further recognizing the uneven progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and all other internationally agreed development goals and commitments necessary to achieve sustainable development,

Reaffirming the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, and

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Welcoming the convening of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit) on 24 and 25 September 2019, and the adoption of its political declaration,⁷ and taking note of the 2019 *Global Sustainable Development Report* as an important input to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that digital technologies and the unprecedented scale, spread and speed of change brought about by them can be harnessed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Stressing the need, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to benefit from and build on experiences, success stories, best practices, challenges and the lessons learned from the previous agreements on sustainable development,

Stressing also the importance of overcoming silos and seeking innovative and coordinated approaches in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard taking note of the actions and initiatives implemented by the United Nations system entities,

Stressing further the need to determine gaps, obstacles, synergies and challenges in the implementation of commitments and instruments in the sustainable development field, in a coherent and integrated manner, and with a view to pursuing and achieving policy coherence as well as identifying new opportunities and emerging challenges for international cooperation on the path towards sustainable development,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁸ the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁹ the New Urban Agenda¹⁰ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹¹ as well as major outcome documents in relation to countries in special situations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;¹²

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system;¹³

3. *Reaffirms* 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”,⁶ and also reaffirms, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁴ all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;¹

⁷ Resolution 74/4.

⁸ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁹ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 71/256, annex.

¹¹ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹² A/74/204.

¹³ A/74/72-E/2019/13.

¹⁴ Resolution 70/1.

4. *Recognizes* that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development constituted a milestone that ushered in major international instruments and commitments that guide progress in closing development gaps within and among developed and developing countries, including the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁵ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹⁶ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (the Rio Conventions)¹⁷ as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and all other internationally agreed development goals and commitments in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the Millennium Development Goals and those under the three Rio Conventions, building on their contributions, best practices, challenges and lessons learned, in order to support the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development builds on issues included in Agenda 21, and encourages further efforts aimed at strengthening international cooperation to address gaps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Acknowledges*, in this regard, that sustainable consumption and production practices can be cost-efficient and effective ways to achieve economic development, reduce environmental impacts and advance human well-being, and urges the need to further Sustainable Development Goal 12, in order to contribute to the achievement of all Goals;

8. *Recognizes* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development adopted, among other commitments on sustainable consumption and production, the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,¹⁸ and that both the Framework and its multi-partner trust fund are tools for action on sustainable consumption and production, and notes the launch of the “One Plan for One Planet” strategy 2018–2022, and in this regard reiterates the need for such initiatives to continue sharing best practices and providing other forms of technical assistance in the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, including by providing tools and solutions for policy design and implementation;

9. *Also recognizes* the importance of new and ongoing efforts to develop policies, frameworks, partnerships and instruments that improve resource efficiency, reduce waste and mainstream sustainability practices across all sectors of the economy, and enable consumers to make sustainable consumption choices;

10. *Further recognizes* the important role of the private sector in utilizing sustainable practices, including for multinational corporations and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises which may face greater challenges in enhancing resource efficiency;

11. *Acknowledges* the link between plastic waste and sustainable consumption and production patterns, and encourages further efforts at all levels to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics and to address through innovative approaches different types of plastic waste, including marine plastic litter;

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

¹⁸ [A/CONF.216/5](#), annex.

12. *Urges* the international community to continue supporting developing countries in strengthening their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production;

13. *Encourages* the further strengthening of the science-policy interface and of the means of implementation from all sources and at all levels, including a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership, as well as by supporting innovative approaches to sustainability science and emphasizing cross-disciplinary partnerships;

14. *Requests* the United Nations system to further mainstream and integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout its work, and to continue to exchange experiences and lessons learned in this regard and to step up its efforts at all levels in continued support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Encourages* regional and subregional organizations to continue to promote sustainable development in their respective regions by, inter alia, promoting peer learning and cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national processes, as appropriate, to advance sustainable development;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular focus on the state of play with regard to sustainable consumption and production and the application and promotion thereof, and to recommend concrete actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in this regard;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled, “Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21”.
