



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session
Agenda item 20

Sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Prathma Uprety (Nepal)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled:

“Sustainable development:

- “(a) Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21;
- “(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
- “(c) Disaster risk reduction;
- “(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind;
- “(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
- “(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;
- “(g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- “(h) Education for sustainable development;

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 12 parts, under the symbols [A/76/533](#), [A/76/533/Add.1](#), [A/76/533/Add.2](#), [A/76/533/Add.3](#), [A/76/533/Add.4](#), [A/76/533/Add.5](#), [A/76/533/Add.6](#), [A/76/533/Add.7](#), [A/76/533/Add.8](#), [A/76/533/Add.9](#), [A/76/533/Add.10](#) and [A/76/533/Add.11](#).



- “(j) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- “(k) Combating sand and dust storms;
- “(l) Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development”

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 1 October 2021, the Committee, taking into account the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the limitations on meetings held on United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, as well as available technological and procedural solutions, and bearing in mind the conference room paper of the Bureau of the Second Committee on the work of the Committee during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly,¹ approved the working arrangements of the Committee for the seventy-sixth session as set out in the organization of work of the Committee.²

3. The Committee convened virtual informal meetings on 11 and 12 October 2021 to hear introductory statements and hold a general discussion on the item and sub-items. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in the annex to the present report. Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 5th meetings, on 5, 6 and 8 October.³ Action on the item and sub-items was taken at the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 18, 22 and 23 November.⁴ An account of the Committee’s further consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

4. For its consideration of the item and sub-items, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 20

Sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America ([A/76/217](#))

Report of the Secretary-General entitled “Agriculture technology for sustainable development: leaving no one behind” ([A/76/227](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores ([A/76/298](#))

Item 20 (a)

Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21

Report of the Secretary-General 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” ([A/76/212](#))

¹ Available at www.un.org/en/ga/second/76/crp1bureaupaper.pdf.

² See [A/C.2/76/L.1](#).

³ See [A/C.2/76/SR.2](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.3](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.4](#) and [A/C.2/76/SR.5](#).

⁴ See [A/C.2/76/SR.7](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.8](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.9](#) and [A/C.2/76/SR.10](#).

Item 20 (b)**Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ([A/76/211](#) and [A/76/211/Corr.1](#))

Item 20 (c)**Disaster risk reduction**

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 ([A/76/240](#))

Item 20 (d)**Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions ([A/76/225](#))

Item 20 (e)**Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions ([A/76/225](#))

Item 20 (f)**Convention on Biological Diversity**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions ([A/76/225](#))

Item 20 (g)**Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth session (Nairobi (online), 22 and 23 February 2021) ([A/76/25](#))

Item 20 (h)**Education for sustainable development**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([A/76/228](#))

Item 20 (j)**Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

Report of the Secretary-General on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ([A/76/206](#))

Item 20 (k)**Combating sand and dust storms**

Report of the Secretary-General on combating sand and dust storms ([A/76/219](#))

Item 20 (l)**Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development**

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development ([A/76/354](#))

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.2/76/L.15](#)

5. At its 7th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Oil slick on Lebanese shores” ([A/C.2/76/L.15](#)), submitted by Guinea on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).⁵

8. Also at the 7th meeting, before the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Israel.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/76/L.15](#) by a recorded vote of 161 to 8, with 7 abstentions (see para. 22, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:⁶

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic

⁵ See [A/C.2/76/SR.7](#).

⁶ Subsequently, the delegation of Rwanda informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.

of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Tonga.

10. After the vote and following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Lebanon.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.2/76/L.20/Rev.1](#)

11. At its 9th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Agricultural technology for sustainable development" ([A/C.2/76/L.20/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Israel, on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Israel, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Madagascar, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that, since the submission of the draft resolution, the following had joined as co-sponsors: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea,

Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan and Zambia. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, El Salvador, Liberia, Malawi, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Tonga also joined as co-sponsors of the draft resolution.⁷

14. Also at the 9th meeting, before the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Qatar (on behalf of the Arab States) and the Syrian Arab Republic.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/76/L.20/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 140 to 1, with 34 abstentions (see para. 22, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:⁸

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Against:

Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Fiji, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe.

16. After the vote and following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Belarus, the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic. Statements were

⁷ See [A/C.2/76/SR.9](#).

⁸ Subsequently, the delegations of Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

also made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine) and Israel, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

C. Draft resolution [A/C.2/76/L.24/Rev.1](#)

17. At its 9th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America” ([A/C.2/76/L.24/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Guatemala, on behalf of Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and the Philippines.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that, since the submission of the draft resolution, the following had joined as co-sponsors: Argentina, Ecuador, Georgia, Israel, Mexico, Paraguay, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Subsequently, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives, Morocco and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) also joined as co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

20. Also at the 9th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/76/L.24/Rev.1](#) (see para. 22, draft resolution III).

21. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Guatemala.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

22. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **Oil slick on Lebanese shores**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [61/194](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/188](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/211](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/195](#) of 21 December 2009, [65/147](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/192](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/201](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/206](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/212](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/194](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/218](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/209](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/224](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/208](#) of 19 December 2019 and [75/209](#) of 21 December 2020 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,¹ in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,² especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,³

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyah electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions [61/194](#), [62/188](#), [63/211](#), [64/195](#), [65/147](#), [66/192](#), [67/201](#), [68/206](#), [69/212](#), [70/194](#), [71/218](#), [72/209](#), [73/224](#), [74/208](#) and [75/209](#),

Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 5 of its resolution [75/209](#), it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the General Assembly has yet to be implemented,

¹ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972 (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1)*, part one, chap. I.

² *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.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Acknowledging also the conclusions on measuring and quantifying the environmental damage set out in the report of the Secretary-General,⁴

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration trust fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the trust fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reiterates*, for the sixteenth consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese Jiyah electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;
3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health in the country;
4. *Acknowledges* the conclusions in the report of the Secretary-General, in which he stated that studies show that the value of the damage to Lebanon amounted to 856.4 million United States dollars in 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations involved in the initial assessment of the relevant environmental damage to undertake, within existing resources, a further study, building on, inter alia, the initial work of the World Bank presented in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session,⁵ with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by neighbouring countries;
5. *Reiterates its request* in this regard to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon for the aforementioned damage and to other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;
6. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and

⁴ A/76/298.

⁵ A/62/343.

international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean basin;

7. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration trust fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly and adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyah electric power plant;

8. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to intensify their support for Lebanon in this matter, particularly for recovery and rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast, reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to ensure that the trust fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

Draft resolution II

Agricultural technology for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [74/215](#) of 19 December 2019,

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,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a vision for a future free from hunger, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition,¹ the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)² and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030),³ and looking forward to the upcoming Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be held in Tokyo in 2021,

Recalling also the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012,⁴

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement⁵ and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁶ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,⁷

¹ World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, annex I.

² See resolution [70/259](#).

³ See resolution [73/284](#).

⁴ [A/CONF.216/5](#), annex.

⁵ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁷ Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.

Recalling also the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires in March 2019,⁸

Looking forward to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, recalling the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,⁹ recalling also relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹⁰ and the Vienna Declaration and Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,¹¹ reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,¹² recognizing the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and noting the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021,

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,¹³ and acknowledging that forests and trees outside forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, and that forests and trees outside forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the conservation of biodiversity, prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust and sand storms and other disasters,

Recalling also the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)¹⁴ and noting that sustainable agricultural technology, digitalization as well as technological, social, economic and institutional innovations build on the knowledge and capacities and respond to the needs and realities of smallholders and family farmers, in particular women and youth in rural areas, and in that regard highlighting the importance of innovation-driven development and support to entrepreneurship and innovation, and welcoming new sustainable agricultural technologies that can contribute to their transition from subsistence farming to innovative, commercial production, helping them to increase their own food security and nutrition, generate marketable surpluses and add value to their production,

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,

⁸ Resolution [73/291](#), annex.

⁹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chaps. I and II.

¹⁰ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

¹¹ Resolution [69/137](#), annexes I and II.

¹² [A/57/304](#), annex.

¹³ See resolution [71/285](#).

¹⁴ See resolution [72/239](#).

therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recognizing that agricultural technology has a beneficial impact on and an important role in the successful implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and in that regard taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals¹⁵ and the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, and the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies,

Expressing concern about the high level of global hunger, which affected between 720 million and 811 million people in 2020,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General on 23 and 24 September 2021, as well as its Pre-Summit, held in Rome from 26 to 28 July 2021, noting the Chair's Summary and Statement of Action on the Summit, issued by the Secretary-General, and recognizing that agricultural technologies have improved the productivity of agriculture and enhanced the sustainability and resilience of food production systems at the local level,

Noting the findings contained in the report of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map for digital cooperation", presented on 11 June 2020,¹⁶

Taking note with appreciation of the activities of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries since its operationalization, and encouraging continued support to the Bank,

Seriously concerned about the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and stressing the urgent need to step up efforts to prevent the loss of biological diversity and the degradation of land and soil,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigation measures taken in response have exposed both strengths and vulnerabilities in agriculture and food systems, the latter of which have caused disruptions to both livelihoods and food supply chains, increased food prices and constrained access to food, and that sustainable agricultural technologies, alongside other forms of innovation, can contribute to resilient, equitable, sustainable agriculture and food systems, which promote healthy diets and improved nutrition,

Recognizing also that the agriculture sector is inextricably linked with the entire food system and that agricultural technologies and digitalization can add value throughout the food system by improving the sustainability of storage, transport, trade, processing, transformation, retail, waste reduction and recycling, as well as interactions among these processes,

Stressing the crucial role of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution to enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and nutrition and eradicating rural poverty, and underlining the fact that meaningful progress in agricultural and agricultural technology development necessitates, inter alia, closing the gender gap, introducing appropriate gender-

¹⁵ E/2021/58.

¹⁶ A/74/821.

responsive interventions at all stages in agricultural innovation processes, including at the policy level, and ensuring that women have equal access to agricultural technologies, related services and inputs and all necessary productive resources, including tenure rights and access to land, fisheries and forests, as well as to affordable education and training, social services, social protection, health care, health services and financial services, and access to and participation in local, regional and international markets,

Recognizing that young people play a significant role in supporting sustainable economic growth and that agricultural technology, innovation and digitalization have an essential role to play in facilitating access to agricultural skills for young women and men, improving the livelihoods of youth, creating quality and decent jobs and contributing to the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, strengthening progress towards achieving the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing also the rapid evolution in science and technological innovation and digitalization, and that the development and open access to mega data and information will bring about profound changes in agricultural research, agricultural extension and rural development,

Recognizing further that a systems approach to agricultural innovation is essential to ensure that innovations, including technologies, are aligned towards common objectives, promote collaboration, address problems relevant to farmers and offer incentives to, and the means to accelerate adoption by, smallholder farmers, and that it is essential to enable interactions and knowledge flows among the different stakeholders in the agricultural innovation system, including farmers' organizations, research institutions, extension services, governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society,

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society, the private sector and academia in furthering progress in developing countries and promoting sustainable agriculture and management practices, the use of agricultural technology, digitalization and the training of smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, and that multi-stakeholder partnerships can contribute to the financing of food security and nutrition as well as sustainable development by mobilizing additional resources through advocacy and innovative funding mechanisms and facilitating the coordinated and targeted use of existing resources, aligning them more effectively with global and national public priorities,

Stressing the need to design sustainable food systems that conserve the natural resource base and enhance the provision of ecosystem services, while increasing productivity, and that respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change, the depletion and scarcity of natural resources, urbanization and globalization, and recognizing that agricultural technology and digitalization can contribute to food security and nutrition and help to build resilience,

Emphasizing that participatory research, in conjunction with effective, pluralistic and demand-driven extension and rural advisory services, is critical in order to ensure that agricultural technologies respond to the demands and needs of all farmers, including family farmers and smallholder producers,

Recognizing the need to further enhance the linkages and synergies between agricultural technology and innovative sustainable agricultural practices, including agroecological principles, resource use efficiency, circular economy, recycling, optimizing external inputs, integration, crop rotation and diversification, no-tillage, soil health monitoring, agroforestry and regenerative agricultural practices, and by effectively combining appropriate technologies, including biotechnologies, with

traditional and indigenous knowledge, in order to design sustainable farming systems that strengthen the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment for food security and nutrition, enhance productivity, improve nutrition, conserve the natural resource base and attain more sustainable and innovative food systems,

Stressing the need to support and strengthen information systems and statistical systems for better disaggregated data collection and processing, which will be key in monitoring progress in the adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies and their impact on improving food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁷
2. *Urges* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the development of sustainable agricultural technologies and their transfer and dissemination under mutually agreed terms to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, and encourages international, regional and national efforts to strengthen capacity and foster the utilization of local know-how in developing countries, especially that of smallholder and family farmers, in particular rural women and youth, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and animal products, promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities and enhance food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies that take into consideration the specific needs of women, young children and youth, with particular attention to securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, strengthening progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. *Recognizes* the important role of family farming and smallholder farming in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition and the role that family farms play in contributing to global food security, poverty eradication and sustainability, as well as job creation, and in ending chronic child malnutrition, and that agricultural technologies should be adapted to the needs of small- and medium-scale family farmers and combined with credit access for sustainable production and significant investment in rural infrastructure as well as the training and education of those who would most benefit from them;
4. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to mainstream gender perspectives into agricultural policies and projects and to focus on closing the gender gap by, inter alia, encouraging gender-balanced investments and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, and a gender-responsive value chain supported by integrated and multisectoral policies, in order to improve women's productive capacity and incomes, strengthen their resilience and achieve equitable access to all forms of financing, markets and networks, labour-saving technologies and agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment, decision-making forums and associated agricultural resources to ensure that agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of women and the barriers that women face in accessing agricultural inputs and resources;
5. *Encourages* Governments to develop and implement youth-focused agricultural development projects and programmes, including through training, education, financial inclusion services, including microcredit services, and capacity-building, including with regard to innovation, in association with the private sector, in order to stimulate the interest and the involvement of youth in agriculture, especially in agroenvironmental sustainability through access to microcredit and

¹⁷ [A/76/227](#).

capacity-strengthening, to develop agricultural technological innovation through private partnerships;

6. *Remains concerned* that agricultural innovations and technologies often bypass ageing farmers, and in particular ageing women farmers, as many do not possess the financial resources or the skills to adopt new practices, and in this regard stresses the need to strengthen the capacity of ageing farmers through continued access to financial and infrastructure services and training for improved farming techniques and technologies;

7. *Acknowledges* the importance of adopting innovative and sustainable food systems by harnessing science, technology and innovation, including co-innovation, promoting participatory research, demand-driven extension and rural advisory services and increased, responsible and inclusive public and private investment, building human capacity, encouraging entrepreneurship, creating an enabling economic and institutional environment and strengthening knowledge flows, in particular between scientists and farmers, taking into account local and traditional knowledge systems, in combination with new sources of knowledge;

8. *Invites* the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to consider ways to make available, on mutually agreed terms, data and information relating to agriculture and food systems, including meteorology, big data, the Internet of things, satellite imagery, early warning systems and other data-based technologies, that could help to build the resilience of family farmers and smallholder producers, optimize yields and support rural livelihoods;

9. *Recognizes* that weather forecasting and climate services and products allow farmers to better plan agricultural activities, optimize production, manage climate-related risks and integrate climate change adaptation into their decisions, and therefore encourages governments and meteorological agencies to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of agrometeorological and agroclimatological data and information;

10. *Acknowledges* that technological innovations can be supported by financial innovations and financial support, such as de-risking strategies and blended finance options, and that blended finance mechanisms are new institutional models that link public and private financing and patient capital with equity investments and promote schemes that more effectively distribute investments to small-scale enterprises and producers;

11. *Underlines* the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems, as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable agricultural systems, sustainable management practices and the use of new and existing technologies, such as conservation agriculture, integrated soil fertility management, integrated farming systems, animal disease prevention and control and integrated pest management, precision agriculture, irrigation, livestock husbandry and biotechnologies, in order to make agriculture more sustainable and productive and, in particular, to make crops and farm animals more resistant to diseases, including drug-resistant infections, considering international standards in this regard, pests and environmental stresses, including the impacts of climate change, drought and extreme rainfall events, in accordance with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

12. *Stresses* the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, and urges Member States to continue to engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of mitigation actions;

13. *Recognizes* that recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic present an opportunity to promote sustainability and increase resilience of agriculture and food systems to the impact of the pandemic and future crises, including through the use of technology and innovation in all its forms, including digital services that can increase access to financial services for small-scale producers and family farmers, including in rural areas, to address mobility restrictions and bank closures, agricultural extension services, weather and climate services, and online platforms that can enable producers to sell directly to consumers, leading to increased profits, improved supply chain efficiency, reduced wastage and better financial inclusion, leveraging artificial intelligence in supporting sustainable agriculture, which can help to improve the overall harvest quality and accuracy, and calls upon all relevant stakeholders to continue to develop policies, investments and partnerships that help to realize the potential of technologies to transform agriculture and food systems, while tackling the persistent digital divides, including the gender digital divide, in order to build back better and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

14. *Also recognizes* that sustainable agricultural mechanization can have potential drawbacks but could also help address shortages of labour, ease drudgery, increase incomes, enhance productivity and the timeliness of agricultural activities, promote efficient resource use, enable better market access and attract new investment and talent into agriculture, thereby creating better prospects for sustainable growth and support measures to mitigate climate and weather-related hazards, and acknowledges that mechanization and digitalization can also create new and higher-paying jobs in agricultural value chains, making it more attractive for youth to stay in rural areas;

15. *Stresses* the need to significantly reduce pre-harvest, post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain through, inter alia, improved production planning, the promotion of resource-efficient production and processing practices, improved preservation and packing technologies, improved transportation and logistics management and enhanced household and business awareness of food losses and waste prevention, to help all actors in the value chain to enjoy greater benefits and to contribute to environmental protection;

16. *Recognizes* that energy-efficient food systems represent a key component in transitioning to sustainable food and agriculture;

17. *Also recognizes* that strengthening urban-rural linkages can improve both rural and urban food security and nutrition, and in this regard highlights the need for integrated urban and territorial agriculture land planning, improved rural-urban transportation links, food packaging technology and cold chain development to reduce food loss, and for effective trade links across the urban-rural continuum, which will contribute to ensuring that small-scale farmers and fishers are linked to local, subnational, national, regional and global value chains and markets;

18. *Further recognizes* that urban farming and agriculture can improve the food security and nutrition of, and foster income opportunities for, urban dwellers, and in this regard highlights the need to further develop agricultural technology in support of sustainable urbanization, including sustainable intensification through indoor and vertical farming, the use of automation to overcome intensive labour challenges, the innovative use of urban spaces for agriculture and the promotion of urban farming, in order to reduce hunger and malnutrition and to promote sustainable urban development;

19. *Underlines* the importance of the sustainable use and management of water resources to increase and contribute to agricultural productivity, calls upon stakeholders to promote integrated water resources management in agriculture and adapt agricultural systems to improve their overall water efficiency and water

productivity, and their resilience to water stresses, inter alia, by developing and implementing adaptive water and agricultural strategies and action plans based on a comprehensive approach to the long-term availability and variability of all water sources, reducing water scarcity risks through integrated water resources management options, designing and implementing agricultural and landscape management practices that increase the resilience of agricultural systems to water stress and reduce pollution, making rain-fed agriculture systems a more reliable option, investing in an enabling environment and mobilizing the full set of tools available to them, and calls for further efforts to develop and strengthen irrigation facilities and water-saving technology, which can also enhance resilience to the current and projected adverse impacts of climate change;

20. *Encourages* Member States, civil society and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to support financial and market services, including training, capacity-building, infrastructure and extension and rural advisory services, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to include smallholder farmers, in particular rural women and youth, in planning and in taking decisions about making appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and practices accessible and affordable to them, and strengthen the links between community-based initiatives and financial institutions, including through the promotion of financing tools that foster agricultural sustainability;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of information and communications technology, as well as digitalization and e-agriculture, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which constitute tools for improving agricultural productivity, practices and smallholder livelihoods, strengthening agricultural markets and institutions, improving agricultural extension and rural advisory services, empowering farmer communities, keeping farmers and rural entrepreneurs informed about agricultural innovations, weather conditions, input availability, financial services and market prices and connecting them with buyers, and stresses the need to ensure the access of women and youth to information and communications technology, digitalization and e-agriculture, especially in rural areas;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, notes the positive impact that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can have in this regard, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, research and development in efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁸ with a focus on the research and development of technology that is affordable, durable and sustainable and that can be easily used by and disseminated to smallholder farmers, in particular rural women and ageing farmers;

23. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States through, inter alia, recommendations and other public goods related to ways to promote sustainable agriculture and increase the adaptive capacity of agriculture and the use of a broad range of agricultural technologies that support more sustainable food systems, build long-term fertility, healthy and resilient agroecosystems and secure livelihoods and have a positive impact on the entire value chain, including technology for post-harvest crop storage, processing, handling and transportation, including in pressing environmental circumstances;

¹⁸ Resolution [70/1](#).

24. *Underlines* the instrumental role of agricultural technology, agricultural research and innovation and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of knowledge and practices in furthering sustainable development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, calls, therefore, upon Member States, and encourages relevant international bodies, to support sustainable agricultural research and development, emphasizes that research outputs should be appropriate to the needs of and accessible to end users, including governments, water managers, large-scale private sector enterprises and smallholder farmers, and in this regard calls for continued support to the international agricultural research system, including the research centres of CGIAR and other relevant international organizations and initiatives;

25. *Stresses* the importance of indicators that can be used to formulate targeted policies towards the adoption of agricultural technology and to measure their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard encourages Member States, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to continue to contribute to the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on the global indicator framework;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, within existing resources, an action-oriented report that examines the current technological trends and key advances in agricultural technologies, provides illustrative examples of the transformative use of technologies at scale and includes recommendations that assist Member States in accelerating their efforts to implement the relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

Draft resolution III

Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [68/207](#) of 20 December 2013, [70/196](#) of 22 December 2015, [72/214](#) of 20 December 2017 and [74/211](#) of 19 December 2019, and all relevant declarations and conferences on this matter,

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,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement¹ and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,³ in which Member States recognized the need to promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver,

Noting with concern that, owing to its geographical location and its geological and hydrometeorological characteristics, Central America is a region prone and vulnerable to adverse natural events which have caused substantial human and economic losses, including impacts on gross domestic product per capita, income, and poverty reduction,

Recognizing that Central America is a region of significant natural resources and that its rich biodiversity provides invaluable benefits to its populations and to its countries’ economies, and noting that sustainable tourism can contribute directly to the conservation of ecosystems through a variety of activities and by raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and, in this regard, that the Central

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

American countries are improving their institutional and policy frameworks, strategies and action plans,

Noting the role of the World Tourism Organization as a member of the informal advisory group on mainstreaming biodiversity, which is tasked with supporting the Executive Secretary and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in developing a coherent outline for a long-term approach on mainstreaming, including on ways to integrate mainstreaming adequately into a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, welcoming the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020 and the first phase of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Kunming, China, from 11 to 15 October 2021, and looking forward to the second phase of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Kunming in spring 2022, which is expected to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Recalling its resolution [70/193](#) of 22 December 2015, entitled “International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017”, noting the efforts and initiatives taken to celebrate the Year, with a view to creating awareness of the important contribution of tourism to sustainable development while promoting the exchange of good practices, knowledge and experiences, as well as increased cross-border collaboration by developing joint ventures to increase the synergies of tourism, including the sharing of tourism-related data and statistics, as appropriate, and noting the report of the Secretary-General on the proclamation of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development,⁴ and recalling also its resolution [74/198](#) of 19 December 2019, entitled “International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021”,

Recognizing the important cross-cutting role of sustainable tourism as a positive contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty, with a focus on ecotourism, rural tourism, community-based tourism and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, the generation of trade opportunities, protection of the environment, improvement of quality of life, and advancement on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, especially in developing countries,

Recognizing also the importance of promoting tourism product development by indigenous peoples and local communities in order to support their economic development and participation in trade while protecting natural environments and cultural traditions,

Stressing the need for responsible tourism and for its beneficial socioeconomic impact on local communities, the economic empowerment of women through tourism, fair tourism, the protection of women, children and people in vulnerable situations against all forms of exploitation in tourism, the prevention of trafficking in persons and trafficking in cultural artefacts, respect for intangible cultural heritage and cultural and natural sites, the protection of tourists as consumers and the provision of unbiased information to tourists,

Noting in this regard the role of the Central American Integration System,⁵ through the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, in the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region,

⁴ [A/73/283](#).

⁵ The membership of the Central American Integration System includes Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Commending the ongoing efforts of the Governments of the Central American countries, in coordination with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, in the implementation of existing and new programmes designed to launch and promote sustainable tourism throughout the region,

Noting the existing joint initiatives designed and implemented to stimulate regional tourism integration and to foster the development of indigenous and local communities, such as the Mayan World regional brand,

Recalling the outcomes of the Forum on Tourism, Sustainability and Climate Change in Central America, held from 11 to 13 April 2013 in La Ceiba, Honduras, the declaration of the fifteenth forum on the development of tourism and on the harmonization of efforts to promote tourism in Central America and the Dominican Republic, held in Guatemala City on 27 August 2014, the outcomes adopted at the 112th meeting of the Central American Tourism Council, held in San Salvador on 23 September 2019, and noting the 119th meeting of the Central American Tourism Council, held virtually on 29 April 2021,

Recalling also the twenty-third session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 9 to 13 September 2019, and looking forward to its twenty-fourth session, to be held from 30 November to 3 December 2021, in Madrid,

Acknowledging the importance of ongoing actions to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production⁶ in the tourism sector while contributing to sustainable development and resilient societies,

Taking note of the World Tourism Organization *World Tourism Barometer* of January 2019, according to which the tourism sector has become a major economic activity for many of the countries in the region, creating much-needed job opportunities and bringing in significant income and foreign exchange earnings, noting also the *World Tourism Barometer* of September 2021, which highlighted the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on tourism, and noting with concern that the global tourism sector suffered its greatest crisis on record in 2020, as a result of the unprecedented health, social and economic emergency caused by the onset of the pandemic,

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁷
2. *Recognizes* the major role that sustainable tourism plays in the development of the Central American countries, as an instrument of social inclusion

⁶ In accordance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/1 (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1).

⁷ A/76/217.

that generates decent jobs and contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of the population, aimed at achieving poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions;

3. *Also recognizes* that since the adoption of resolution [74/211](#) in 2019, despite the many challenges they have faced owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central American countries have shown numerous positive developments, initiatives and efforts to promote sustainable tourism and sustainable development, notwithstanding which it is expected that the pandemic will continue to adversely affect progress towards the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁸ and its Sustainable Development Goals, and in this sense, encourages strategic actions and accelerators to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development and to promote a sustainable recovery in the tourism sector, through global and regional political action and coordination to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and support the recovery therefrom, which will require substantial financial efforts to rebuild a more resilient, diversified, inclusive and sustainable tourism sector;

4. *Recalls* the adoption of the principles of sustainable tourism, developed by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat and found in its strategic plan for sustainable tourism development, 2021–2025, which captures the region’s vision of itself as an integrated, sustainable, multi-location, cross-border destination of high quality and emphasizes its action plan for tourism and climate change as a component of the regional strategy on climate change;

5. *Recognizes* that the tourism sector has been a catalyst for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions in Central America, including addressing environmental issues, in particular climate change, poverty eradication and economic development, highlighting the importance of strengthening appropriate policies and financial support within a broader framework of sustainable development policies;

6. *Encourages* regional and national tourism organizations to promote destination models that seek the highest possible direct benefits for local and national economies, in order to contribute to improving quality of life and reducing poverty in local communities, taking into account the integration of sustainability policies in the tourism sector, and invites all stakeholders to identify, assess and mitigate the impacts of tourism on the three dimensions of sustainable development;

7. *Stresses* the importance of biocultural heritage, endogenous development, scientific research and replicable models to promote sustainable, community-based, rural and local tourism activities for the benefit of people and nature, in close collaboration with indigenous peoples and youth, as a priority for the Central American region, recognizes that some countries in the region are developing new and innovative models, such as the tourism, conservation and sustainable livelihoods model, and also recognizes the importance of strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage, as well as promoting the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the protection of cultural and traditional knowledge and practices for the achievement of a more sustainable tourism sector;

8. *Recognizes* the valuable role of international cooperation with relevant partners, and encourages them to continue to support the implementation of various projects aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in the region by, inter alia, strengthening ecotourism, rural, cultural and heritage tourism, including colonial sites, preventing trafficking in cultural artefacts and ensuring respect for intangible cultural heritage and cultural and natural sites;

⁸ Resolution [70/1](#).

9. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Central American countries in converging towards a regional tourism strategy based on preserving the region's biodiversity and natural and cultural attractions and reducing poverty through employment and entrepreneurial tourism development that emphasizes micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, while addressing the adverse effects of climate change, to improve the quality of life of the region's inhabitants;

10. *Appreciates* the continued efforts of the Central American countries to support sustainable tourism development, including the adoption and implementation of new legislation and policies, and encourages them to use sustainable tourism as a tool to promote the eradication of poverty and enhance the protection of biodiversity, cultural heritage and community development;

11. *Encourages* cooperation to promote the engagement of women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities and initiatives that foster their socioeconomic empowerment through sustainable tourism that continues to promote equitable partnerships, the creation of jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities;

12. *Recognizes* the continued need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building efforts that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole;

13. *Notes* the importance of adequately measuring the sociocultural and environmental impact of tourism, and encourages efforts to fill the present data gap in this area by taking advantage of the emergence of non-traditional solutions and sources of data, with an overarching goal of advancing the national sustainable development agenda beyond the tourism sector;

14. *Recognizes* that the implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector in Central America, and hence advancing the 2030 Agenda in the region, requires, inter alia, the identification and adoption of more resource-efficient tourism planning approaches by all relevant stakeholders;

15. *Stresses* the need to promote the further development of sustainable tourism, in particular through the consumption of sustainable tourism products and services, and to strengthen the development of ecotourism, maintaining, in particular, the culture and environmental integrity of indigenous and local communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the natural heritage and indigenous cultural and religious sites of those communities;

16. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to join the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,⁹ which aims at promoting innovation and circular thinking to accelerate resource efficiency in the tourism value chain;

17. *Recalls* the establishment of two observatories for sustainable tourism in Central America,¹⁰ and invites Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories of the World Tourism Organization, which contributes to the promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable tourism, and to support the practice of informed policymaking around the world;

18. *Encourages* further collaboration by public-private partnerships towards the enhancement of quality data collection, taking into account the concerted efforts

⁹ A/CONF.216/5, annex.

¹⁰ The observatories are located in Panama City and in La Antigua Guatemala.

by national authorities of the Central American countries, in conjunction with the private sector, through the establishment of observatories for sustainable tourism to monitor the development of tourism at the destination level in order to provide timely information for evidence-based policies and decision-making;

19. *Urges* the tourism sector in the Central American countries to be part of the coordination, knowledge-sharing and communication mechanisms for security and emergency management at the national and regional levels and to collectively promote an evidence-based approach in developing measures for safe, secure and seamless travel, which will enable government agencies to make relevant, informed and coordinated decisions;

20. *Emphasizes*, taking into account the fact that the tourism sector is vulnerable to natural disasters, the need to foster resilient tourism development in the Central American region, including through national strategies for rehabilitation aftershocks, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans and public-private partnerships;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, regional commissions and other regional organizations, as well as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to promote sustainable tourism worldwide;

22. *Invites* Member States and other stakeholders and the World Tourism Organization to continue to support the activities undertaken by the Central American countries for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region, including with regard to emergency preparedness for better disaster risk reduction, the vulnerabilities of the Central American countries to natural disasters, and their impacts on sustainable tourism, as well as for capacity-building, job creation and the promotion of local culture and products, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

23. *Invites* the international community to support efforts, as appropriate, in creating and implementing innovative technologies to modernize the tourism industry in the Central American countries;

24. *Encourages* the Central American countries, through the Central American Tourism Council and the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, to promote sustainable tourism by intensifying bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation at the level of the tourism industry, and to continue to support sustainable tourism through policies that foster responsive and inclusive tourism, strengthen regional identity and protect their natural and cultural heritage, including their ecosystems and biodiversity, and notes that existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments;

25. *Also encourages* the Central American countries to establish and strengthen secure, reliable, efficient, high-quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transit transport systems that link them to international markets, affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and information and communications technology, with the support of the international community, as appropriate, so as to promote sustainable tourism in the region;

26. *Recognizes* that persons with disabilities have equal rights to access tourism services and opportunities, such as independent travel, accessible services, trained staff, reliable information and inclusive marketing, and that great efforts should be made to ensure that tourism policies and practices are inclusive of persons with disabilities, the majority of whom live in developing countries;

27. *Calls upon* Member States and the tourism sector to take effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help to promote the equal participation of women and the balanced participation of youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas, and to promote effective economic empowerment, mainly through decent job and income creation;

28. *Recognizes* that addressing the need for improved monitoring of the development impacts of tourism requires rethinking and changing traditional practices in order to incorporate multiple data sources to provide public administrations and the tourism sector with the most updated intelligence on tourism, and notes the progress achieved through the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories of the World Tourism Organization, which is focused on continuously monitoring the impacts of tourism, tackling the three dimensions of sustainability, strengthening evidence-based decision-making and creating a culture of continuous and timely monitoring and measurement;

29. *Welcomes* the positive role of tourism in the conservation of biodiversity and in fighting climate change, which provides a further argument for enhancing the environmental components of tourism policies and better utilizing the potential of tourism as an enabling agent of change, and the convening of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization and with other relevant United Nations entities, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, including concrete recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in this regard, in the Central American countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

Annex

General discussion

1. In accordance with its agreed organization of work ([A/C.2/76/L.1](#)), the Second Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 20 and its sub-items (a) to (h) and (j) to (l) during three informal virtual meetings, on 11 and 12 October.
2. At the first informal virtual meeting, on 11 October, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under item 20 and its sub-items (a), (b) and (j)), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (under sub-item 20 (c)), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (under sub-item 20 (e)), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (by means of a pre-recorded message) (under sub-item 20 (f)), the Director of the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development in the Education Sector of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (under sub-item 20 (h)), the Director of the Mitigation Division of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (under sub-item 20 (d)), the Director of the Land and Water Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (under sub-item 20 (k)), the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (under sub-items 20 (g) and (l)), the Deputy Director for Sustainable Development of Tourism of the World Tourism Organization (under item 20) and the Regional Adviser at the Regional Bureau for Arab States of the United Nations Development Programme (under item 20).
3. At the same meeting, the representatives from the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification responded to comments made and questions posed by the representative of Morocco.
4. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of Kazakhstan (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries), the Philippines (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Morocco (on behalf of the Group of African States), Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Saint Kitts and Nevis (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Qatar, Egypt, Thailand, Singapore, Ethiopia, China, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ecuador, Malaysia, Iraq, Mexico, El Salvador, Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ghana.
5. At the second informal virtual meeting, on 11 October, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Kenya, Lebanon, Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Armenia, Costa Rica, Cameroon, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Maldives, Zambia, the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Belarus, Nigeria and Brazil.
6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.
7. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the United Nations.
8. At the third informal virtual meeting, on 12 October, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of Nicaragua, the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea, Timor-Leste, Mozambique, Eritrea, India, Tonga, Bahrain, Mauritania and Burundi.

9. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the State of Palestine.

10. Statements delivered under the item that were provided to the Secretariat are available in the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations*.¹

¹ See <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/013dd100-a51a-ec11-8311-0abf1fa886b5/2021-10-11>, <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/fd3cd100-a51a-ec11-8311-0abf1fa886b5/2021-10-11> and <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/873cd100-a51a-ec11-8311-0abf1fa886b5/2021-10-12>.